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[WITH A SUPPLEMENT, FIVEPENCE.]

THE OLD AND THE NEW YEAR.

THE year eighteen hundred and fifty-six has passed into the domain of History; and its successor—inheriting its fortunes, its duties, and its obligations—has already run the one-hundredth part of its course ere the journalist has had the opportunity to note the end of the one or the beginning of the other, and to draw either from the retrospect of the Past or the prospects of the Future the national lessons which it has become his function to enforce.

The past year began and ended amid wars and rumours of wars, and amid prayers as well as intrigues for peace. The great military monarchies of Europe which were not actually engaged in the struggle against Russia, either desired the triumph of that Power, as the chief representative and main supporter of despotism, or looked with alarm upon the continuance of the war, both on account of the sacrifices it imposed, and of the hopes it excited among the nations and peoples whom they oppressed and misgoverned. They dreaded it for the same reasons that the proprietor of a gunpowder magazine dreads the conflagration of a contiguous haystack. They accordingly spared no effort to put an end to the war, except the one great effort of taking part against the evil-doer—which, had they done, honestly and from the first, might have altogether

prevented the bloodshed and the calamities of the contest. Peace was the result—not of their courage—but of their intrigues. Hardly, however, was the ink dry with which their Plenipotentiaries affixed their signatures to the Treaty, than it became apparent to most men that the Peace was illusory; that Russia was not really defeated; that Turkey was not saved; that the populations of Europe, deprived of their natural freedom by the existence of Russia as the paramount Empire of the Continent, were not satisfied; and that all the great problems, which have to be solved before the political system of Europe can stand on anything like a solid basis, had been left as they were, to abide the chances of some new conflict more tremendous than the last. But Peace was signed;—Belgium was threatened;—Sardinia was disappointed;—Italy was discouraged;—and the Czar of all the Russias was crowned at Moscow, all the notabilities of Europe hastening to the spectacle; while the Jews and the Germans, and the few Russians who manage the diplomatic business of St. Petersburg, concocted schemes for setting the treaty at defiance; for breaking through or evading its stipulations; and for reconquering for their master by the trickery and quibble of words, all the advantages of which the fortune of war had deprived him.

And thus the year wore on. At its close the treaty was still in dispute, and a new Conference was about to assemble to make another attempt to put some better patches than the last upon the tattered garment of the European system. The journeymen tailors are about to resume their work in their old atelier, and will of course make a better job of it than they did before, in that particular part of the vesture where the gap is most visible. The rent at Bolgrad and the hole at Serpents' Island will be duly mended; and, if the stitches hold together for a year or two, is it not enough in the estimation of the creatures who live in the folds of the beggarly habiliment, and who dread nothing so much as the new and befitting dress that would make an end of them?

But the Turkish question never was the only one to be settled; and even if success should so far attend the efforts of those who wish to keep the Russians out of Constantinople as to convert decaying Turkey into an independent and strong sovereignty, the question of Italy—to say nothing of that of Switzerland, which the imbecile wrongheadedness of the King of Prussia has suddenly made prominent—is sufficient to tax all the wisdom and energy of Europe. Whilst Italy remains discontented, peace must remain precarious. It was discontented at the commencement of the year 1856. It is more so at the commencement of 1857; and certainly



LONDON ICE-CARTS.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

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the idle manner in which the King of Naples has been threatened by Great Britain and France is not of a character to diminish the dissatisfaction of the Italian people. The King persists in his misgovernment, in despite of the magniloquent Allies, who talk but do not act; and the only result of the expedition will be that the combined squadrons will sail away from the Neapolitan waters with the contempt of all Italian patriots, and with that of the King of Naples superadded to it, as a final *bonne bouche*.

The state visit of the Emperor of Austria to his alien and disaffected provinces of Lombardy and Venice promises no results to satisfy either the people of those provinces, of Italy at large, or the Emperor himself. The Lombardo-Venetians desire no small favours of their German Sovereign. They have but one wish, one request, one hope, one passion;—and that is, to get rid of the Austrians altogether. Nothing less will satisfy them. No other favours, however gracious—no relaxation of the system of government hitherto pursued—will give them any pleasure, unless, perhaps, the favour of the Emperor should tend in a direction which the Emperor by no means contemplates;—their final emancipation from a yoke which is as galling to their pride as it is hurtful to their interests. And this state of affairs adds to the complications of events still further east. Fearing to lose Lombardy and Venice, Austria long ago cast her eyes upon Moldavia and Wallachia. The possession of these would make, if not ample, at least satisfactory, amends for the deprivation of Italy. In Trieste and the ports of Dalmatia she would still be able to command the Adriatic, whilst Moldavia and Wallachia would give her the mouths of that great and important river which flows for so many hundred miles through the heart of her fairest territories. Nor would such a solution of the difficulty have been without advantage to Europe. Unluckily for Austria, she did not act boldly and honestly by England, France, and Turkey while the war was yet young, or such an arrangement might have been possible. But it is now too late; and, whatever may be the fate of Lombardy and Venice, Austria will not be enabled to clutch the prize of the Danubian Principalities.

The Swiss question is but another proof of the unsettled state of the whole Continent; and of the necessity—if war is to be avoided, or even for any long period postponed—of a general Congress of all the Powers to revise the Treaties of 1815, upon which the present political system is made to rest. The Congress of 1815 deliberated upon a basis of despotism, and the basis has been found slippery, shifting, and unstable. The admission of Turkey into that system ought of itself to be a reason for the calling together of a new Congress, to deliberate with clearer lights upon the future limits of all the States, and upon their future relations to each other, and to the great commonwealth of Europe. There is but one Power that seeks to obtain territory at the expense of its neighbours; and if all the other Powers would, as they ought, form a League and an Alliance against that Power, the new Congress might affirm the peace of Europe upon a broader and more stable basis than has ever yet been known in its history; and Russia herself would have no more power to unsettle it, without drawing condign punishment upon herself for the attempt, than unaided Carolina or Georgia would have, if it sought to break up the grand confederation of America.

And this, we think, is the problem that 1857 will be called upon to solve. If we are to have a real peace, let the States of Europe, in a new Congress, settle it upon a real basis. If they do not, wars and rumours of war will continue to afflict the nations, to impede their prosperity, and to scandalise their civilisation.

LONDON ICE-CARTS.

ALTHOUGH the foreign ice trade has, to a considerable extent, provided for the supply of the metropolis with the cool luxury of ice, the home trade is not yet extinct. Even before the first paragraph appears in the newspapers of the first hard frost of the season, long trains of ice-carts may be seen wending their way to the shops of purchasers to dispose of their freights. A certain class of the "London Poor" keep a sharp look-out for a frost, which having arrived, a host of little carts soon flock into the environs and clear the pools and shallow waters of their ice. We dare say the proprietors of these carts are among the veriest Protectionists in England. Their calling is not extinct, as the frost of last week proved; but the competition rarely allows the price to rise, even in mild winters, to 14s. per cartload—the maximum in the good old times of high prices. A few details of the home ice trade will be found in the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, No. 407.

In the engraving upon the preceding page the Artist has pictured a couple of ice-carts with good effect; and his illustration blends the hard labour and urchin waggery often to be seen in juxtaposition in the street on a winter's day in London.

THE REVENUE.

	The Year ended Dec. 31, 1856.			Quarter ended Dec. 31, 1856.		
	Net Revenue	Increase	Decrease	Net Revenue	Increase	Decrease
Customs ..	£23,018,375	1,084,073	..	£6,232,175	525,074	..
Excise ..	18,073,778	804,315	..	4,816,000	212,000	..
Stamps ..	7,268,272	135,448	..	1,838,000	88,231	..
Taxes ..	3,105,026	9,483	..	1,356,000	5,000	..
Property-tax ..	16,028,422	1,906,861	..	1,423,464	88,091	..
Post-office ..	2,869,152	165,152	..	748,000	101,000	..
Crown Lands ..	284,857	4,341	..	86,000	1,000	..
Miscellaneous ..	971,106	..	131,901	195,842	..	149,475
Totals ..	72,218,988	4,109,673	131,901	16,695,481	1,020,396	149,475
		£3,977,772			£870,921	
		Net Increase.			Net Increase.	

BISHOPRIC OF RIFON.—The Dean and Chapter of the cathedral church of Ripon held a special chapter on Tuesday morning last, for the purpose of electing the Rev. Robert Bickersteth, D.D., to be Bishop of that see. It is needless to add that Dr. Bickersteth was unanimously elected. The Dean and Canons proceeded from the Chapter House to the choir, whence the Hon. and Very Rev. Henry David Erskine, D.D., the Dean, advanced to the west door of the choir, and, turning towards the nave, published and declared such election to the clergy and people in his own name and that of the Canons. The confirmation is to take place in York Minster after morning prayers on Saturday, the 17th inst.; and the consecration at the parish church of Bishopsthorpe, near York (adjoining the palace of the Archbishop of York), on the following day.

THE DOUBLE MURDER AT DOVER.—EXECUTION OF REDANIES.—On Thursday last, at twelve o'clock, the last dread sentence of our criminal code was carried into effect at Maidstone, on the person of Dede Redanie, for the murder of Caroline and Maria Back, near Folkestone, in the summer of last year.

EXECUTION OF JOHN HANNAH.—John Hannah, who was lately convicted at York, before Mr. Justice Erle, of the wilful murder of Jane Benham, of Armeley, near Leeds, on the 11th September last, was executed on Saturday last, at the scaffold behind York Castle, in the presence of several thousand spectators.

On Monday afternoon three boys, aged from nine to eleven years, were killed by the fall of an arch while playing under it at Blackburn.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

THE PARIS CONFERENCES.

The representatives of the several Governments who were parties to the Treaty of Paris met on Wednesday last at the hotel of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, to arrange as to the means of putting an end to the difficulties which have arisen in connection with the carrying out of the 20th Article. To all appearance the meeting will be a mere formal affair, matters having been all arranged beforehand.

The second edition of the *Morning Post* of Thursday contains the following letter from its Paris correspondent relative to the Conferences:—
I believe it will be found that the President of the Council proceeded in the first instance to recognise the powers of the respective members of the Conference. This formality having been completed, a programme was read, the substance of which stated that, whereas a difficulty had arisen in executing Article 20 of the Treaty of Paris, the contracting parties had met in order to consider under what circumstances the difficulties in question could be arranged. Some compliments were then expressed by the President on the conciliatory spirit which animated the great Powers that concluded so honourable a peace. A new line would, therefore, be traced out as a Bessarabian frontier. Russia renounced her pretensions to New Bograd and the Serpents' Island. It was further agreed to give the Delta of the Danube to Turkey. In compensation for these amicable approaches a district of land would be accorded to Russia towards the north of Moldavia. The members of the Conference would be called upon to acknowledge this new tracing, which, it may be observed, embodies the original intentions of the Treaty, and leaves the Danube entirely free from Russian contact. I understand no dissenting voice was heard on the promulgation of these propositions by the President, and a spirit of reconciliation prevailed throughout the meeting, as far as I can learn. The Conferences will probably meet again to-morrow, and put their signatures to the compact. Thus, as anticipated, all will end in the recognition of propositions arranged before the Conferences met. There was, however, a minor difficulty mooted to-day of some sort, of the nature of which I am unacquainted; but I am assured it is not serious, and certainly not at all likely to prevent the early signature of the revised Bessarabian frontier. Baron Brunnow will leave Paris immediately after the Conferences.

SWITZERLAND AND PRUSSIA.

The latest accounts from Paris and Berlin speak confidently of "a pacific solution of difficulties," but the preparations for war are still going forward. Neither France nor Prussia would like to see matters pushed to hostilities; and, therefore, they are doing all they can to put down the storm, for which they are responsible. Meanwhile Switzerland is becoming more and more enthusiastic in its determination to make a bold stand for freedom. The National Council of Berne has unanimously adopted the proposition of the Federal Council for opening an unlimited war credit. The military preparations already assume an importance far exceeding all that was seen in 1838 and 1847; indeed, the popular demonstrations do not allow the slightest doubt to be entertained of the unanimity of the national sentiment. The Cantonal Governments and private individuals vie with each other in enthusiasm and sacrifices; and the Federal Council receives every day the most satisfactory assurances of devotedness, accompanied by offers of service and of money. There are at the present time already 15,000 men echeloned on the line of Basle-Rheinfelden-Liestal, and as many from Rheinfelden to Schaffhausen. The various gymnastic societies of Switzerland have all offered their services, and there is some intention of forming all the members into a special corps. It is calculated that there would thus be ready a body of 2000 young men, accustomed to every kind of bodily exercise, and capable of rendering the greatest service to their country. In all the cantons officers of every rank, freed from military service, offer themselves for any duty that may be required; and in all cases their offers are at once accepted. About 1000 officers, sub-officers, and soldiers of the Neuchâtel mountains have sent an address to the Federal Government, in which they claim, as a favour, to be placed in the advanced guard, if an engagement should take place with the Prussians. The National Assembly has named as Commander Dufour, who took the oath—Freylheron, to be Quartermaster-General.

The *Moniteur Officiel* of Wurtemberg publishes the report of the Committee of the States relative to the passage of Prussian troops. The Committee, relying on the positive right of allies, refuses the demand of Prussia as a political intrusion.

THE WAR WITH PERSIA.

The *Bombay Telegraph* of the 3rd ult. contains no intelligence from Bussodore, the point of rendezvous for the Persian expedition, but was in hourly expectation of despatches from the Commanders. The latest news from the Gulf of Persia was not of a very pacific character. According to the *Telegraph*, the Shah is resolved to fight to the last, should the soil of Persia be profaned by the footsteps of an invading foe. The Resident at Bushire, when the last vessels left, had been ordered to haul down his flag and leave the town, together with all the Christian and American residents who were supposed to be favourably inclined towards the British. A proclamation had been issued by the Governor of the province, directing its subjects to remove into the interior, as the Shah was determined to maintain the integrity of the empire, and to do battle with the British. Most of the inhabitants had accordingly moved out of the vicinity of the expected battle-field. Troops were being rapidly collected in the vicinity of Bushire; about 40,000 soldiers of all arms having been moved towards that point. Russian officers and even Russian troops are said to form a portion of the Persian force at Bushire, and they consequently hold high hopes of preventing the British from effecting a landing on their shores. An island about two miles from Bushire has been fortified with eighty guns. Works to strengthen the position were being rapidly and vigorously executed. Much reliance was placed on this fortification for keeping off our ships from approaching the shore.

From what is transpiring around us it is evident (says the *Telegraph*) that the war in which we have just engaged will be something more than a mere hostile demonstration. Orders have been received by the Bombay Government from Calcutta to prepare a reserve field force with the utmost dispatch; and the military departments are all now busily engaged in carrying out these instructions. It is expected that the reserve will be ready to sail by the time that the transports return from the Gulf; and it is evident that the authorities are waiting for them, as no extra freight has been taken up. The reserve brigade is to consist of the First, or Leslie's Troop of Horse Artillery, her Majesty's 14th Light Dragoons, and the 78th Highlanders—at present stationed at Poona; the 1st company 2nd Battalion European Foot Artillery, from Sholapore; the 26th Regiment N.I., from Satara—directed to march to Poona immediately; and three Native Infantry Regiments from the Madras Presidency. Should this demonstration fail in obtaining the object desired by her Majesty's Government, an army will march across Afghanistan into Persia; the Amir Dost Mahomed taking the same part in the campaign that the Nizam took against Tippoo Sultan.

One object which the Indian Government is said to have in view is the obtaining possession of the island of Grand Kishma, in the Persian Gulf:—

The island commands not only Persia and Turkey, but Arabia—especially the trade of Muscat and the country of the Joassamines, so long famed for their pirates. From this island a flotilla of steamers would sweep all the trade of a refractory chief in less than a week, and shut up all Persia, especially the rice and fish trade, which would starve both Gamroon and Bussorah into compliance in less than six months. There is yet another reason, in the opinion of her Majesty's Government, why a station should be formed in the Persian Gulf, and it is no less a one than to keep out the Americans, who have made proposals for the purchase of the identical island, offering as high as 2,000,000 dollars. The offer of the Americans was, we believe, backed up by Count Simich, the Russian Attaché; and, had it not been for the prompt interference of Mr. Murray, the cupidity of the Shah would have overcome his habitual distrust, and the Pearl of Persia would have passed away to the younger Saxon Power and been transformed into a second San Francisco, and would have proved a formidable rival to our growing trade. The island of Grand Kishma completely covers Ormuz, and is capable of supporting a population of 200,000 without any foreign aid whatever.

As regards the proposed expedition towards Cabul, the *Bombay Times* of the 3rd of December says:—

A strong reserve force of seven or eight thousand men is at present being organised at the Presidency in connection with the Persian Gulf expedition, of which we have heard no intelligence since our last. A force of five thousand men is now moving from the Kohat frontier towards Cabul, with what object it is not known. Sir J. Lawrence has had an interview with Dost Mahomed, and an Ambassador has been sent to the Court of the Khan of Kelat; all these things being supposed connected with the Persian quarrel.

The following is an extract from a letter dated Bagdad, Nov. 4:—

Things look grinning between the Persians and Turks now. Something like 14,000 pilgrims, proceeding to Kerbella, were undergoing quarantine at Khan-Keen. They had calculated their time to a nicety—so many days on the road, so many days' quarantine, and so many days to reach Kerbella on a day which they consider particularly holy and lucky. But

they brought misfortune with them in the shape of 800 dead bodies which they were conveying for interment to the sacred shrine of Hosein. It was the old story, you know—a body on each side of the mule, and the living man smoking in the centre. Well, the natural effect of so much putrefaction piled up in the quarantine khan, with the living pilgrims eating and sleeping around it, was a sort of epidemic cholera, which increased the number of uninterred dead bodies. The quarantine authorities seeing this, with Eastern wisdom imposed a further quarantine which, in their anxiety to reach the sacred shrine by a certain day, the 14,000 pilgrims objected to keep, broke loose, and, carrying off their dead bodies, came on to Bagdad. The Turks forbade them to enter the town, and to enforce obedience got out all their troops, and two field-pieces with their muzzles pointed from the northern gate towards the mass of living and dead Persians. Returning from a grunter poke (wild boar hunt), we rode round to see them. On every turret of the walls there were Turkish sentries to check any lively gymnastical freak. The pilgrims remained outside two days, and matters were then compromised by the Pacha allowing them to cross the bridge by night to proceed on their way. So far good enough; but a new pilgrimage is now en route, and poly-tongued rumour sayeth that the fanatics composing it, hearing of the indignity put on their countrymen, had massacred 100 Turks at Khan-a-Keen. The Pacha has consequently left Bagdad, and, though he did not proceed direct to Khan-a-Keen, that place is believed to be his destination. We cannot trust entirely to this information, although it is generally credited. I wish the Turks had chosen another time to go to loggerheads with the Persians, for if they now make war they will say it is to assist the English against the overwhelming power of Persia. Apropos of the English war with the Shah, the Persians carry their heads mountains high, talk of making it a religious war, and, consequently, of the total expulsion of the infidels from India.

THE BOMBARDMENT OF CANTON.

The last Overland Mail brings the startling intelligence that the city of Canton has been bombarded by the English fleet, in consequence of the outrageous conduct of the Chinese authorities. For some time past the intercourse between the English officials and the Governor of Canton has been greatly embarrassed, owing to his refusal to redress the grievances of British merchants. On the 8th of October the Chinese authorities consumed their career of arbitrary violence by seizing a lorcha under British colours, and making prisoners of those on board. It is stated on good authority that they cut off the heads of four of the crew. The Consul, Mr. Parkes, the British agent on the spot, proceeded first on board the lorcha, and afterwards endeavoured to obtain an interview with the mandarins. On board the lorcha he was menaced, and the mandarins refused to give any kind of explanation of the proceeding. The Consul immediately dispatched intelligence of these events to Sir John Bowring at Hong-Kong, and also to Sir Michael Seymour, who was on the spot; and reprisals were commenced in a mild form by the seizure of a mandarin junk, which Commodore the Hon. C. G. J. B. Elliot, of the *Sybilie*, took and sent into Hong-Kong. Meanwhile the Consul sent in a strong remonstrance to Yeh, the Governor of the city, to which no answer was returned. Finding all his efforts vain, Consul Parkes renounced further attempts at conciliation, and a naval force soon appeared on the scene.

On the 18th of October Sir Michael Seymour dispatched from Hong-Kong the screw-corvette *Encounter*, 14 guns, and the steam-sloop *Sampson*, 6, for Whampoa in the first instance, with a large force of marines and blue jackets; and the steam-sloop *Barracouta* followed with further detachments. Admiral Seymour himself then proceeded to Canton, and undertook the direction of the operations. The British and other traders were officially warned of the posture of affairs, and commercial transactions, which for a week before had been little more than nominal, were suspended. The river in front of Canton is broader than the Thames at London-bridge, but the depth of water does not exceed two fathoms, while the narrow passages by which access is gained to it on the eastern side of the island of Whampoa have a depth not exceeding a fathom and a half. The city is externally guarded by five forts, of which two are on the land side and two on Pearl river. These were attacked and taken by our countrymen on the 24th of October. An attempt was then made by Admiral Seymour to terminate the difficulty without further hostilities, but the Chinese Governor would neither give satisfaction nor grant an interview to the British Commander.

Admiral Seymour then determined to attack the city itself. A wall, composed partly of sandstone and partly of brick, surrounds Canton; it is about 30 feet high and 25 feet thick, and is mounted with cannon. Against this wall a fire was opened on the 27th of October, and by the 29th a practicable breach had been opened through which the troops entered. The Governor's palace, situate in the south-western part of the new city, was gained; but appears not to have proved a position worth holding, for the troops were withdrawn in the evening, with a loss of only three killed and twelve wounded. A further attempt which was now made to negotiate proved vain, and it was then resolved to attack the old, inner, or Mantchou portion of the city, divided from the southern by a high massive stone wall, and containing the garrison of Canton. This part of the city was bombarded on the 3rd and 4th of November, and on the 6th the *Barracouta* destroyed twenty-three war-junks. Another interval of reflection was granted to the Chinese Governor, but at the date of the last accounts from Canton which had reached Hong-Kong no signs of an accommodation were discernible. The Imperialist garrison of Canton was in a very weakened state. The Governor had raised the pay of common soldiers from six to eight dollars a month. Kowloon-foo, the capital of the adjoining province of Kwangsi, was closely invested by the insurgents, who, it was thought, would probably attack the Mantchou governor as soon as his new embarrassments became known.

Our fleet of war-ships in the Chinese Seas is at present large, as will be seen by the following list:—At Hong-Kong, her Majesty's ships *Calcutta*, 84; *Winchester*, 50; *Coromandel*, 3; *Hercules*, and *Minden*. At Whampoa, the *Sybilie*, 40; *Encounter*, 14; *Bittern*, 12; *Samson*, 6; *Comus*, 14. At Canton, the *Barracouta*, 6. At Woosung, the *Pique*, 36; *Hornet*, 17.

His Excellency Sir M. Seymour, in whose hands the whole affair rested, has gained the respect and admiration of all the British subjects at Canton. The patience and humanity he has displayed, and the unflinching determination with which he acts, have inspired the greatest confidence. Throughout the whole matter the community have been kept fully informed on all points needful for them to know. The factories have been strongly and efficiently guarded; and no precautions which care and foresight could suggest have been wanting to assure the minds of those most interested. It will be seen from the following circular, addressed to the foreign community, that there is no immediate prospect of peace, or resumption of trade, and it is for the present useless to speculate on the ultimate results:—

CIRCULAR.

British Consulate, Canton, Nov. 15, 1856.
Her Britannic Majesty's Consul has received the instructions of his Excellency Rear-Admiral Sir M. Seymour, K.C.B., Naval Commander-in-Chief, &c., to issue the following notice to the British community:—

"His Excellency feels it unnecessary to recapitulate to the British community the origin and progress of what has been done at Canton during the last few weeks by her Majesty's naval forces under his command. Their loss has happily been trifling, and their operations, now including the capture of the Bogue Forts, eminently successful.

"His Excellency regrets to find that neither the extreme measures to which the Imperial Commissioner's defiance of treaty obligations has compelled him to resort, nor the plain proof given that the city and its inhabitants are at the mercy of her Majesty's ships of war, have as yet induced the Imperial Commissioner to make the concession demanded by his Excellency, as a guarantee against future misunderstandings of a similar nature to the present.

"The concession is not regarded as unreasonable by Chinese who, his Excellency understands, adequately represent the feelings of the respectable inhabitants of Canton, nor is any tangible obstacle alleged to it by these, except the impracticability of the Commissioner himself, who has laboured to associate the people with him, by representing the English as in league with rebels and outlaws, and has pushed his hostility to the ferocious length of proclaiming rewards for the lives of English subjects without distinction.

"His Excellency is determined that his demand shall be conceded; but the community must be well aware that any course his Excellency may now contemplate would be compromised by publicity. His Excellency therefore confines himself to stating that he sees no immediate prospect of a restoration of quiet.

"The security of the foreign position will be as well cared for as heretofore. The nature and object of any measures now to be resorted to by his Excellency deems it advisable to keep to himself."

(Signed) HARRY S. PARKES.

Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Canton.

To the British Community at Canton.

THE UNITED STATES.

The United States steam-ship *Atlantic* arrived at Liverpool on Thursday with advices from New York to the 20th ult. The political news in the States since the last departure has been of a comparatively unimportant character.

CRITICAL POSITION OF WALKER IN NICARAGUA.

The New York papers received by last arrival speak in very dubious terms as to the prospects of General Walker and his filibustering bands in Nicaragua. The *Journal of Commerce*, in speaking of the alleged victories he had achieved, says:—

The accounts tell us that Walker had razed his own capital of Granada to the ground, leaving not a vestige of its existence, and has removed the seat of his Government to Rivas. This looks like retreating. Granada lies between Massaya and Rivas, but is much nearer to Massaya. Why did Walker burn the town of Granada? Was it to prevent its falling into the enemy's hands, as he continued his advance, which had already been accomplished from Leon to Massaya, and might be still pressed on in the same direction to Granada? But we are told that the "fighting at Massaya had ended in the entire defeat of the enemy." Perhaps, there being no longer any enemy to contend with, General Walker thought he had no further business in the North; so he went to the South, where he could be at hand to confront any new invasion from Costa Rica, or welcome the emigration from California, which, no doubt, his success would tend to invite; or whence, if occasion should require him to revisit that State, he might easily repair to San Juan del Sur to embark. But "the inhabitants of Granada had removed to Rivas with all their effects." Possibly, then, the conflagration of the town was a persuasive expedient which the General adopted to induce a community to which he had become attached by long residence among them to accompany him on his removal. Well, we shall know in time. For the present we can only be certain that the allies must, indeed, be pretty well extinguished, seeing that they "have lost 3000 men in the various battles since October."

P.S.—Since the above was in type we have received advices by the *Tennessee*. The intelligence they bring fully confirms the views above expressed, intimating our conviction that the victory claimed for the Filibusters was in fact a defeat, terminating in the flight of Walker to the vicinity of the Transit route, where he could be in readiness either to take advantage of any succours that might come from this country to his relief, or to avail himself of such refuge and means of safety as the steamers of the Transit Company would afford.

AUSTRALIA.

By the *Red Jacket* clipper, which arrived at Liverpool on Monday last, we have advices from Melbourne to the 2nd of October. The newspapers are filled with reports and speculations relating to the recent elections, which appear to have taken place without any undue excitement. The following particulars respecting the condition and progress of the colony we have taken from the summary of the *Melbourne Herald*:—

Although the winter which is now passing away has been a very unfortunate one to the miners, the heavy rains having frequently flooded their works, the produce of the gold-fields for the first nine months of the year has already reached the enormous quantity of ninety tons, or 180,000 lb. troy. The subjoined statement will show at a glance the yield of the first three-quarters of the present compared with those of the three preceding years:—

	1853.	1854.	1855.	1856.
Received by escort ..	1,540,545	1,296,557	1,526,792	1,900,960
Shipment	1,831,468	1,553,999	1,915,284	2,142,361

The effect of the incessant rains has, however, told on the escort returns of the past three months, which show a slight decline, when compared with the corresponding period of the past year.

The following is from a communication received from our correspondent at Beechworth, the most distant of our gold-fields:—"This district used to boast of sending down its 6000 or 7000 ounces of gold per week by escort. The quantity rapidly augmented to 15,000, and even as much as 18,000 ounces. With the news of our wealth came population, and a consequent impetus to trade; business sites in the town were so much sought after that the consciences of the fortunate proprietors became the only test of their value. The Surveyor-General was besieged to lay out more town lots; accordingly a large sale came off in May, at the Court-house, some of the lots selling at the rate of £2500 per acre. This was considered a pretty fair price, but at another Government sale, in the ensuing month, they realised £4600 per acre. The Bank of New South Wales purchased an allotment at this figure, on which a new banking-house is now in course of erection; the cost of the building, I hear, will be something over £4000, and it will doubtless be an architectural embellishment to our town. The Bank of Victoria was fortunate enough to obtain a site for an office (area about sixty by eighty feet) for the moderate sum of 2000*l.*; and I hear that 1000*l.* has been offered by the London Chartered Bank for a site, 30 feet frontage, with a slab building thereon, and that 30*l.* per foot has been refused for a vacant site in the principal street. Leases are effected at 6*l.* and 7*l.* per foot per annum frontages, the fortunate lessees erecting their own buildings. There is, of course, a cause for this unprecedented rise in the value of property within a year; it is to be found in the extent and lucrative nature of the business transacted, of which one or two specimens will suffice. I heard of one storekeeper having cleared out with something like 20,000*l.* One of the partners of the Union Hotel sold his interest recently; I hear the figure was 5000*l.*, which, with the money made in the concern, would amount to a 'tidy pile.'"

After a protracted period of dullness, preparations are being made for an active summer trade. The roads, which for the last four months have been in a condition that has greatly enhanced the price of carriage, will, after a few days of settled weather, be in good order for the transport of merchandise, and there is every prospect of a brisk and extensive traffic. The stores, especially on the northern gold-fields, have become bare of goods, and the demands of a thriving and increasing population have to be met. Notwithstanding these encouraging prospects, there is a feeling of uneasiness abroad, caused in a great measure by the excessive arrivals of general merchandise. From the official published returns we find that we have already imported goods to the value of £8,752,602 in the first nine months of 1856, against £6,951,328 for the same period of 1855, while our population has not increased in anything like the same ratio. During the week ended the 20th instant our imports amounted to the enormous sum of £665,072.

The returns of the Registrar-General's office are now complete up to the 30th of June for the entire colony. The population on the 31st December, 1855, amounted to 319,379; the increase for the half-year, by the balance of arrivals over departures, was 8,714; and the increase, by the balance of births over deaths, was 3345; giving a total of 331,438 souls at the end of the first half of the current year.

EDINBURGH ART-MANUFACTURES EXHIBITION.

THE exhibition of this association for the improvement of public taste, and for the encouragement of artistic talent in manufactures, has now been open for some time, and attracts large numbers of visitors of all classes. The managers seem desirous of extending the benefits of the exhibition as far as possible, both by convenient arrangements and important auxiliary means. The galleries are opened at night as well as by day, and the rooms are admirably lighted by means of large octagonal frames of iron pipe suspended near the ceiling, and giving forth a large number of jets of gas; by this means nearly all the objects in the exhibition are seen as well by night as by day. The rates of admission are extremely moderate, especially in the evening, for the benefit of the working classes, and the attendance is large.

The manufacturers of Edinburgh are but few, in any branch of trade, and consequently the exhibition owes more than usual to strangers, as producers. Nor have the manufacturers of Scotland availed themselves as they might of the opportunity afforded them, Glasgow and the other manufacturing towns being but poorly represented.

The chief articles of Edinburgh manufacture are furniture, house decorations, carpets, and furniture silks, wood-carving, and small contributions of glass, jewellery, and miscellaneous articles. The furniture is generally remarkable for solidity rather than elegance, and some ornamental specimens exhibit more power of execution than knowledge of design. The decorations are, in some cases, very creditable, but they are placed at a disadvantage between those of Messrs. Moxon, who, although established in Edinburgh as well as London, derive most of their designs from France and their workmanship from England; and those of Paris, which, although far too ornate for our taste, are excellent both in design and execution. In wood-carving the Edinburgh exhibitors compete successfully with the best English exhibitors; but, generally speaking, both are wanting in the art of applying their power. Wooden roses and wooden partridges are evidences of imitative ability, but they are not artistic. The French Department contains a large amount of wood-carving—nearly all admirably executed, much of it highly artistic, but the greater part overlaid with work. In the inland work exhibited by the Paris workers the execution is equally good, and the taste far more chaste. There are in the exhibition several specimens of inland work, geometric and artistic, which deservedly attract great attention. The inland veneers are prepared specially for the trade, and can be purchased of any size required. There is an imitation of burl work produced by the voltaire pile which is very effective, and said to be very cheap and durable. The specimens of china mosaic are also very attractive.

The chief feature of the exhibition is the large amount of contributions from private collections, and the importance of many of the articles. We reserve a notice of them for a future occasion.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS IN LONDON.—The total number of deaths registered in London in the week that ended on Saturday is 1069, being very nearly the same as in the preceding week. It appears that the number in the present return is less by 300 than would have been returned if the average rate of mortality had prevailed. Last week the births of 19 boys and 723 girls, in all 1472 children, were registered in London. At the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1846-5 the average number was 1362.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

THE NEW GOLDEN LECTURER.—On Sunday morning the Rev. Daniel Moore, Incumbent of Camden Church, Camberwell, who has been appointed to the Golden Lectureship, in the room of the Rev. Henry Melvill, B.D., who has resigned, commenced his duties at the church of St. Margaret, Lothbury. The spacious edifice was densely crowded, and even the stairs were crowded with persons anxious to form an opinion of the new lecturer. The rev. gentleman selected for his text the 15th verse of the second chapter of St. Paul's Second Epistle to Timothy, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

THE UNITED ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLMASTERS.—The third annual meeting of this association was held at the Society of Arts, Adelphi, on Monday last, Mr. W. McLeod in the chair. The report stated that eighteen members had been added to the association, twelve had resigned, and two had died. The total number of members was 232, one-half of them nearly being in London. There are also three local associations in union with the institution—namely, the London Elementary Teachers' Association, Kent and Sussex Schoolmasters' and Schoolmistresses' Association, and the North Buckinghamshire and West Bedfordshire Association of British Teachers. The balance-sheet showed the expenses and funds to be about equal. In the evening the Rev. J. Booth, LL.D., of the Society of Arts, delivered an address upon the importance of education, pointing out its vast benefits to all mankind. He considered the Government had done more in causing a demand for education in opening up the civil service of India than if they had established fifty colleges with 500 professors in each. A vote of thanks having been passed to Mr. Booth for his address, Mr. G. Kearsley, Secretary to the Voluntary School Association, delivered a lecture on "the school in its relation to after life."

COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS' SCHOOL.—The anniversary dinner of this institution took place on Saturday last at the London Tavern, under the presidency of Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton Bart., M.P.; who was supported by Mr. Thomas Chambers, M.P., Mr. Sheriff Mechi, the Rev. Daniel Moore (the Incumbent of Camden Church, Camberwell), Mr. G. Routledge, Mr. Graham, Mr. J. B. Gunter, Mr. Blowes, Mr. George Moore, Mr. W. Stockdale, Mr. Thomas Blake, and other gentlemen. After dinner the children connected with the school were introduced, and their healthy appearance elicited the highest commendations from all present. The usual loyal toasts having been proposed and drunk with all the honours, the chairman gave "Prosperity to the Commercial Travellers' School," in an eloquent speech on the value of educational institutions. The subscriptions received during the evening amounted to 1500*l.*

PRESERVATION OF LIFE FROM SHIPWRECK.—On Thursday a meeting of the Royal National Life-boat Institution was held—Thomas Chapman, Esq., F.R.S., in the chair. A reward of £11 was voted to the crew of the life-boat of the institution stationed at Tenby, for rescuing during the stormy night of Sunday, the 7th ult., the crew of the Spanish brig *Nuevo Torcuato*. A reward of £8 5*s.* was also granted to the crew of the life-boat of the society placed at Newbiggin, for rescuing the crew of four men belonging to a fishing-coble which was upset near that place during a south-east gale of wind. A reward of £12 was also granted to the crew of the life-boat of the society stationed at Portmadoc, for putting off in her to the assistance of a vessel in distress. A reward of £4 was also voted to four men, in acknowledgment of their praiseworthy services in putting off in their boat during a strong gale and rescuing the crew of six hands of the schooner *Ellen*, of Cardigan, which was wrecked in Ballycotton Bay, on the 9th ultimo. A reward of £2 10*s.* was also granted to five men for putting off in a boat with the view of rendering assistance to the crew of the French fishing-smack *Ismerie*, which during a gale of wind sunk off Rye. The tide, however, having rapidly ebbed, the crew were left on *terra firma*. Six transporting life-boat carriages, at an estimated cost of £550, were ordered to be built for six of the life-boats of the institution on the coast. During the past year it was stated that the institution had expended upwards of £4240 on life-boats, carriages, and boat-houses. In addition to twenty silver medals, £460 had also been voted by the institution for distinguished services in saving, through the instrumentality of its life-boats and other means, the lives of 519 persons from shipwrecks on our coast. It is to be regretted that the income of the institution is still considerably below the amount required to carry out effectually its important objects. The committee, therefore, earnestly solicited increased support. The Shipwrecked Fishermen and Mariners' Society forwarded to the institution an additional munificent donation of £100, which had chiefly been collected in threepences from seamen subscribers to that excellent society.

THE LONDON REFORMATORY FOR ADULT MALE CRIMINALS, WESTMINSTER.—On Friday evening (last week) a lecture was delivered to the inmates of this institution, by Mr. Thomas Collier, on "The Textile Treasures of the Earth, and their Fabrication," illustrated by numerous specimens of fibre-yielding plants and other textile substances in various states of preparation and manufacture. The first part of the lecture related to the conduct of the men and their altered prospects. In congratulating them on their wise determination to abandon the pursuits of crime and dishonesty, and upon living in a country where such purposes of amendment are so well encouraged, the lecturer urged them to go onward in their reformatory course. As one of the many large and interesting fields of operation that lay open to the genius and industry of the mechanic as well as the scholar, the textile fibres and fabrics seemed very important. The men appeared greatly pleased in examining samples of these rich fibrous materials with which the kingdom of nature so much abounded. In particularising some of the manufacturing processes, it was shown that many discoveries must yet be made before even the task of separating and preparing the fibres be properly performed. In glancing at a few of the triumphs of steam and machinery, the lecturer stated that many of the important inventions were the result of close observation by comparatively unlearned men. He therefore pressed upon them the importance of cultivating habits of attention and reflection. As they were in a fair way of regaining their position in society, he knew no way so likely to render themselves useful members as the exercise of these habits; but attention and reflection were most essential in reference to things of far higher and more lasting moment than the most precious materials that earth can yield. The men evinced deep interest for nearly two hours, and at the close the governor, Colonel Stace, on the part of the inmates and of the ladies and gentlemen present, tendered to Mr. Collier their cordial thanks for his instructive lecture.

THE ROYAL BRITISH BANK.—THE DIVIDEND.—The sudden manner in which the meeting for the declaration of the long-looked-for dividend under the bankruptcy distribution of this estate took place, after the decision of the Lords Justices confirming the judgment of the Vice-Chancellor Kindersley, and the handing over the assets in hand by the official manager, Mr. Harding, to the assignees in bankruptcy, is likely to cause considerable disappointment amongst a large body of creditors, who, having only proved their debts before the official manager, and not having taken the double precaution of proving in bankruptcy, will be deprived of the right of participating in the first dividend; and to that fact, no doubt, is to be attributed a dividend of 5*s.* 6*d.* in the pound on the debts proved in bankruptcy, amounting to about £350,000, whereas the debts proved before Mr. Harding, the official manager, amounted to about £500,000. Since the declaration of the dividend, which will be payable this week, those creditors who had failed to prove in bankruptcy have done so in shoals; but unfortunately too late for them to receive the benefit of the first dividend. Their proofs will be entered on the proceedings, and at the next dividend meeting they will be entitled to be paid the amount of the first dividend of 5*s.* 6*d.* before the second is declared. The list of the shareholders liable to contribute to the liabilities is divided into two classes—A and B. Class A consists of 123 names, those of persons holding 1000 shares, and who were holders of shares under the original charter. Class B consists of 224 names for 2000 shares, holding shares under the supplemental charter, making 347 shareholders liable to contribute towards the debts and liabilities upon 3000 shares. In class A 104 names have been settled on the list holding 912 shares, and in class B 86 names holding 672 shares, giving a total of 190 names settled on for 1484 shares.

THE BULLION ROBBERY AND THE GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY FRAUD CASES.—Arrangements similar to those made in the Palmer case are to be adopted with respect to the gold-dust robbery case and the trial of Redpath for the Great Northern Railway frauds. An application has been made by Mr. Bodkin on the subject to Baron Martin, by whose direction it is understood that the Grand Jury, who are to meet at the next session of the Central Criminal Court on the 5th of January, will be adjourned on the 6th till the following Monday (the 12th of January), when they will reassemble for the consideration of those two important cases; and the trials will take place on Tuesday, the 13th. By this arrangement the numerous witnesses will have the comfort of being accommodated in one of the courts, and thus be exempted from the serious inconvenience which has been so frequently and justly complained of, that of being kept waiting in the different lobbies of the courts.

INSANITY AND MURDER.—On Tuesday last, after Mr. Elliott had disposed of the public business, and was about to leave the bench at Lambeth Police Court, Mrs. Martha Bacon, a married woman, twenty-six years of age, of mild expression of countenance, but with something in the appearance of her eyes that clearly indicated a disordered mind, was brought to the court in custody, and charged with the murder of her two children—one about fifteen months and the other about three and a half years of age—by cutting their throats from ear to ear, and also with inflicting some wounds on her own throat, with the intention of committing suicide. The evidence given left no doubt as to the melancholy fact. The only thing the prisoner had to say was that she did not do it. The poor woman (who during the examination kept looking with a vacant stare at the different witnesses while giving their evidence) was then remanded to a future day; and Mr. Elliott humanely directed that her husband, who is at work at Reigate, should be made acquainted with his melancholy bereavement without delay.

THE FRAUDS ON THE CITY OF LONDON UNION.—On Wednesday last John Paul, late assistant-clerk to the Guardians of the Poor of the city of London, was brought up at the Mansion-house, on a charge of embezzlement. The first case was his having appropriated a cheque for £378 15*s.* 6*d.*, which he ought to have paid to Mr. Kingsford, a miller, who supplied the union with flour. The cheque was given to him on the 2nd of September, and on the 15th of that month he paid it into the Bank of London to his own credit. Paul was also charged with having forged an accountable receipt for money which he had received from the collector of poor and church rates for the parish of St. Andrew Undershaft. Mr. Woodward, the collector, had, from time to time, up to the 18th of November, given to the prisoner a variety of sums of money, amounting in the whole to £200. On the 18th of November he gave to him a further sum of £90, making together the sum of £290, which he was to pay into the bank of Messrs. Smith, Payne, and Co. On the following day he was to bring the receipt for that money to Mr. Woodward, and according to his promise, he did bring a receipt to Mr. Woodward purporting to be signed by Mr. Croser, who is a clerk and cashier in the house of Messrs. Smith, Payne, and Co.—the receipt purporting to be signed "E. Croser, for Samuel George Smith, Treasurer of the City of London Union." That receipt was a forgery, as was proved by the evidence of Mr. Croser. Mr. Humphreys, who appeared for the prosecution, said he would not proceed any further with the case at present. The prisoner was accordingly remanded till next Thursday. It appears from a report of the committee of investigation appointed by the City of London Union that several other officials have been guilty of connivance as to the frauds and embezzlements of Paul and Manini. They state that Mr. Rowsell, as clerk of the union, was fully aware of the fact that Paul had fraudulently used two cheques drawn by the board for his own purpose, and had concealed that knowledge from the board. They also report that, notwithstanding the statement made by Mr. Gibbs, the auditor of the union, to the effect that he had examined the accounts, and found everything correct and legal, they find that several sums, forming an aggregate of £11,878 2*s.* 11*d.*, had been credited to several parishes since Lady-day, 1853, and had not been paid into the union. They therefore recommend that the officials named, and several others, more or less implicated, should be discharged forthwith. It is said that Paul's defalcations spread over a period of no less than twenty years.

ON INTERNATIONAL LAW AND INTERVENTION.*

PUBLIC attention has necessarily been much attracted to these questions, and will be more. Some among us, and those far from being an uninfluential class, go the length of doubting whether there is, or ought to be, such a thing as International Law; and their doubt of course extends to all interventions founded on it. Have they the truth, or is it at some other point; and can anything be done towards ascertaining where that point may be?

Why have we Municipal Law? Ought there to be Municipal Law—meaning thereby the law by which a police, in blue or other colours, proceeds to act against those who, in the exercise of their limbs and faculties, perform certain acts defined and notified; with less violent processes in the shape of protocols from attorneys' offices, and other kinds of intimation that certain acts must be done or let alone, on peril of the wrath of society being, first or last, in some shape let loose on the offender.

Is this as it ought to be? Would it not be much better if every man was allowed to go about in his natural liberty? Have not powers of the kind in question been at all times much abused? Is not history full of instances of innocent people brought up for punishment, and families ruined by the inroads of sheriffs' officers armed with pieces of diplomacy under the name of writs? Does not everybody know in their hearts that human kind is gasping for the abolition of Municipal Law, as it is gasping for the abolition of personal liberty in all but the owners of happy slaves?

The answer to all this is, that it is from beginning to end the colouring of the public enemy. There have been innocent people punished in spite of all that could be done to hinder it; just as every now and then somebody perishes by the contents of the druggist's shop, notwithstanding all precautions for labelling aright. But the feeling of mankind is strongly in favour of druggists' shops notwithstanding. It recognises the verity, that things of this kind are the accident, and the other the design. There is no man but gratefully looks back with some recollection of pain relieved or suffering prevented, and looks forward with cheerful hope to secure the same hereafter, notwithstanding all the perils of laudanum served out for Tinctura Rhei, and oxalic acid for the refreshing salts of Glauber.

Just so would men in their inmost hearts make mirth of any who should go about to tell them it was better to go without the attentions of the police to house and purse, than run the risk of the ways in which the men in blue might be employed to damage the honest citizen. That there have been such cases is not denied; but to point one out, is like the proverbial difficulty of discovering a needle in a truss of hay. And the whole genius of man—at least of honest man—is directed towards reducing the quantity to the smallness which mathematicians call infinitesimal. Of all speculations one of the most hopeless would be to persuade the virtuous lieges, that it would be better to walk about without law, each man being a law to himself when the necessity arises, by the aid of such revolvers as he might carry in his pocket.

Simply, then, men create and support Municipal Law because there is a great deal more good than harm from it. Which is encouragement to inquire whether light may not by analogy be thrown on what is, or might, or ought to be, the compact among those larger aggregates of humanity called nations, with a view to obtaining results approximating to the same. Whereof, with permission, another time.

(To be continued.)

* Mr. Cobden, in reply to a letter from the Secretary of an association calling itself the Bradford Committee for Investigating State Affairs, suggests to the "Committee" that, "instead of wasting its efforts in the vain effort to unravel the thread of our foreign policy, it would more wisely apply itself to the task of laying down an intelligible and honest principle on which the intercourse between this country and other nations ought to be carried on." The hon. member for the West Riding is well known to hold very decided opinions on that head; but, as the utterance of them, in the present temper of the country, would not tend to improve his popularity in Yorkshire, or anywhere else, he prudently maintains a diplomatic reserve. The question he has started, however, is one which imperatively demands solution, and we have much pleasure in giving insertion to a communication on the subject from a writer whose well-known style will be easily detected by those who remember the Anti-Corn-law agitation, and to whom the friends of Free-trade are deeply indebted for the triumph of that cause.

THE NEWMARKET CHAMPION MEETING.

THIS Coursing Meeting, appointed for the first week in December, was postponed first to the following week, on account of the severity of the weather, and has since been fixed for February 9. On the next page we have engraved portraits of two of the favourite Greyhounds—Mr. Randall's Lady Clara and Asylum, the first and second for the All-Age Stake at the Newmarket Champion Meeting. Lady Clara is light-fleshed, very symmetrical, and has a particularly neat head and good shoulders, and depth of brisket; has rather arched loins, and is high on the leg. She has never been beaten, and was bred by Mr. Harris—got by Mansoor out of Bess. She is black, with a white streak down the neck and chest. Asylum is also black, and is by Bedlamite out of Young Havock. She is a longer greyhound than Lady Clara, and has more power behind.



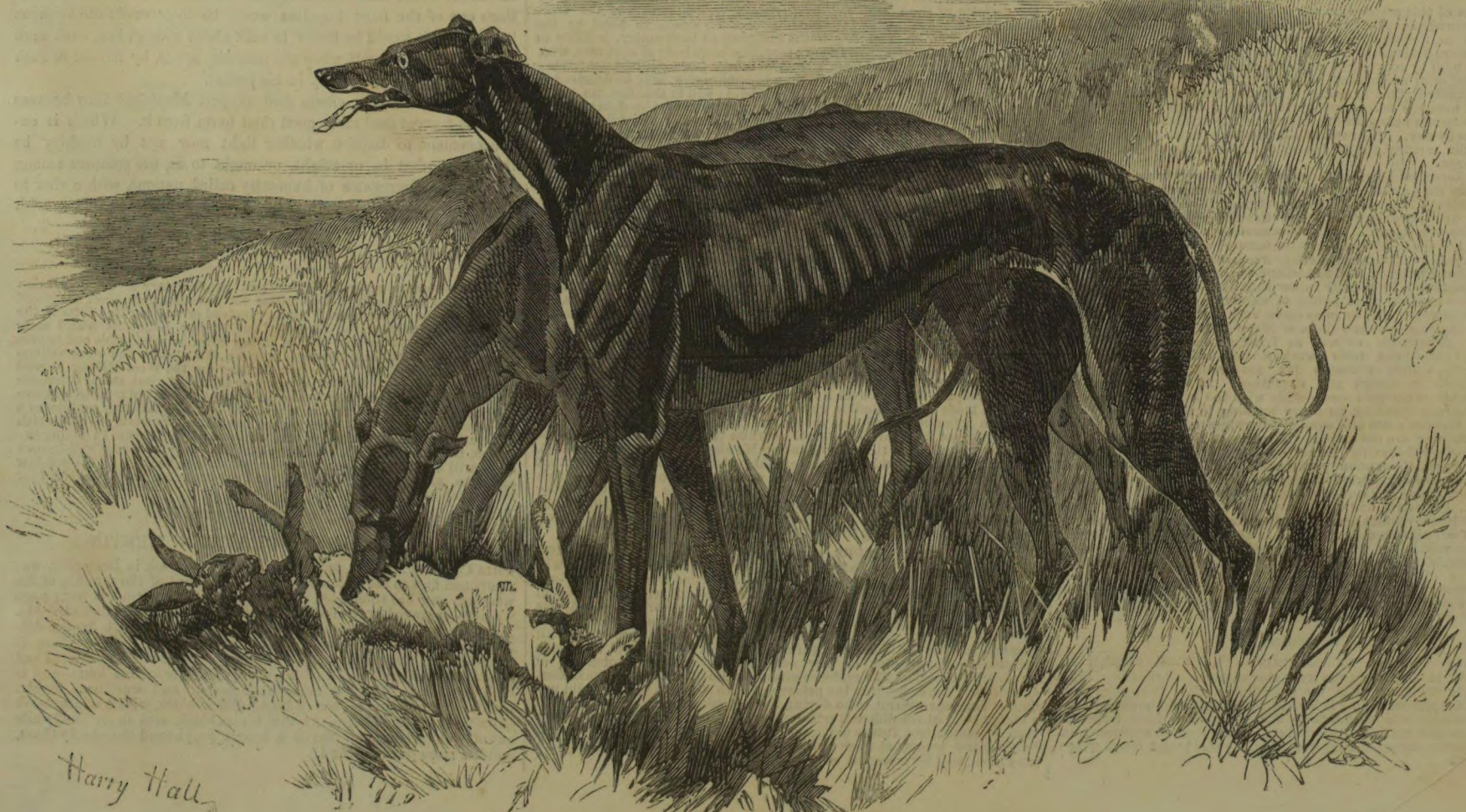
THE SAPPERS' CAMEL (IN THE GARDENS OF THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY) AND GOAT FROM THE CRIMEA.

THE SAPPERS' CAMEL AND GOAT.

DURING the early part of the siege of Sebastopol three Bactrian camels used to roam and graze in the Grand Ravine and the Valley of the Shadow of Death, which, as our readers may remember, separated the British Left Attack from the French attack on the Bastion du Mât, where they were exposed to the fire from the Russian batteries. These

animals at the time, naturally enough, caused great excitement amongst our troops and those of our allies, and to such a pitch did it rise that parties of Artillery, Line, and blue-jackets, repeatedly endeavoured to drive them up into their camps, but they always evaded capture and returned to their old haunts. However, one day, in the latter end of November, 1854, Lieutenant Lennox, Royal Engineers, who was on duty in the trenches, ordered his party of Sappers, when

relieved in the afternoon, to try and drive them up to camp. This, it may be imagined, was not by any means an easy task, especially as they had become very wild from previous attempts; but, as the word "impossible" is unknown in the soldier's vocabulary, nightfall saw the three four-footed animals in the Royal Engineers' park, Left Attack camp; and there they remained under the orders of Col. Chapman, C.B., till the severity of the weather made it necessary to send them to

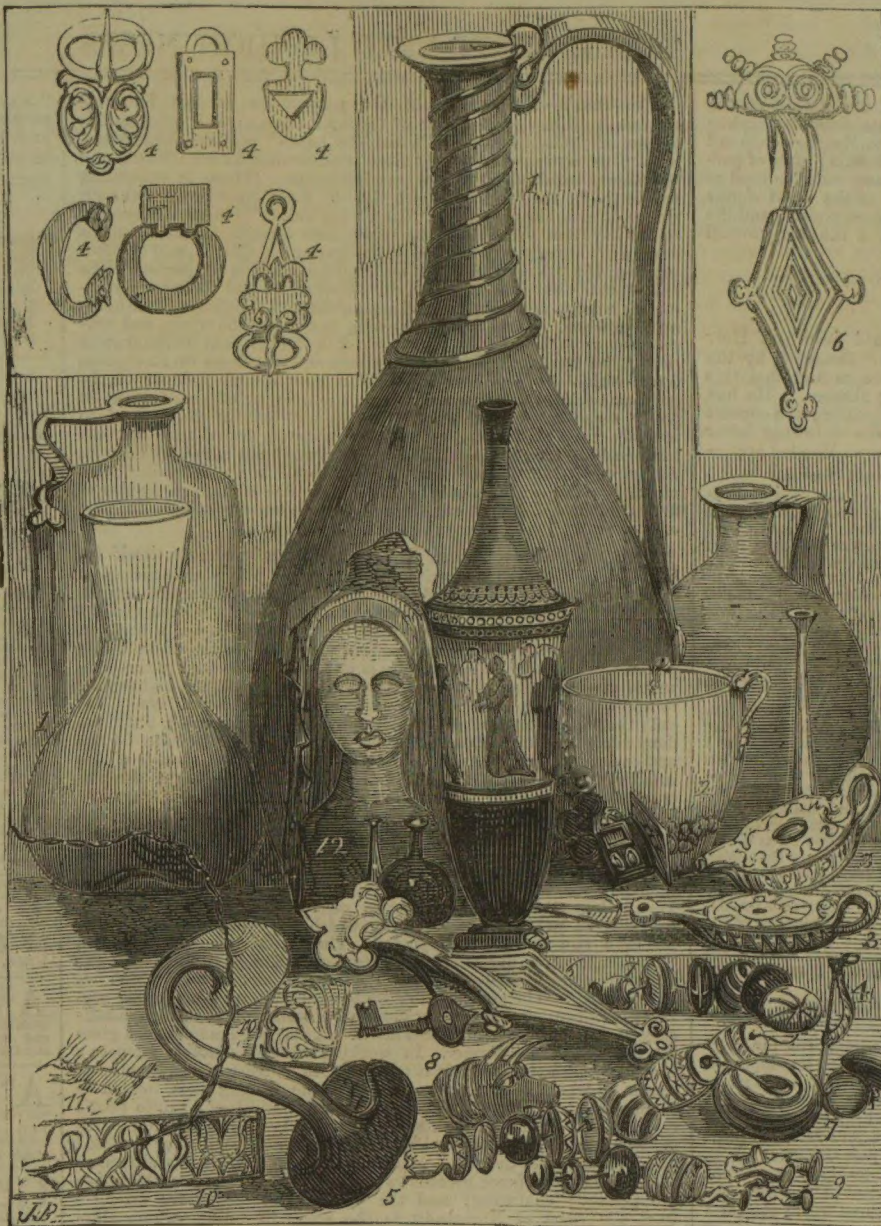


GREYHOUNDS "LADY CLARE" AND "ASYLUM."—(SEE PRECEDING PAGE.)

Balacava, under the care of Lieut. Leahy, R.E., where they would be better protected from the snow and rain, which they cannot endure. During this ever-memorable winter they became very tractable, and the mother of the one whose portrait we have given, furnished daily, during the summer of 1855, for some time Sir Harry Jones's table with a small quantity of milk; but the youngest of the three, just previous to Christmas-day, 1854, when he was to have provided the officers in camp with a great feast, was found one morning frozen to death. The two survivors, in the spring of 1855, were again moved up to the front, where grass was more plentiful, and it was on the morning after the capture of the Mamelon and quarries by the Allied armies that the camel here represented was born in the Royal Engineers' camp. The large camels proved to be very valuable as transport animals, and during the siege were employed bringing Engineer stores to the front, either in arabas or on pack saddles. They likewise, as long as the supply lasted, carried bales of sandbags down to the trenches, each bale containing 125 bags. At last the winter of 1855 found the Allies in possession of Sebastopol, and employed in demolishing its five magnificent docks and basin entrance; and the two old camels, with the young one, were made use of for fetching down materials and provisions, being stabled in a shed close by. During this winter one of the old ones died. The two survivors marched to Balacava, with the head-quarters of the Royal Sappers and Miners, under the command of Major Robertson, in June, 1856; and on the 9th of July the mother was turned adrift, and the young one put on board the steam-transport *Clarendon*, for passage to England, under the charge of Lieutenant Graham, R.E. On the 30th of July this steamer, after calling on her road at Constantinople, Malta, and Gibraltar, met with a severe gale, and the following day she was run ashore about six miles to the west of Cadiz. This obliged the camel, with all the Engineer horses and their grooms, to be put on board her Majesty's ship *Centaur*, which arrived at Portsmouth on the 14th of August. The camel was then sent with her keeper to the head-quarters of the corps at Chatham, and arrived in time to be inspected on the 19th August by his Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief and General Sir John Burgoyne. Private George Low, who had charge of the camel in the Crimea, states that the old camels frequently went without water for four or five days together, although regularly taken to water every day. In the Crimea they drew rations as bat ponies—the daily allowance for each being 9 lb. of corn and 10 lb. of chopped straw, with occasionally a mixture of hay and straw, instead of straw alone. The young camel was very fond of biscuit, and on this she principally fed until she was old and strong enough to be retained and used as a baggage or transport animal, when she drew rations as a bat pony. She was taken from the Head Quarters of the Royal Engineers, Chatham, to the Zoological Society's Gardens on the 18th November.

We have also engraved the goat taken in the first reconnaissance before Sebastopol, Oct., 1854, which remained with the Sappers and Miners in the Left Attack Engineer park, under Colonel Chapman, C.B., till after the fall of the town; and latterly on Balacava heights; finally he embarked for England with the 10th Company Royal Sappers and Miners, in H.M.S. *Dragon*, on the 12th July last. This company also possess a dog, originally a present from the Governor of New-foundland. He served in the British Right Attack trenches, and when there was very heavy fire used to bolt into the General's hut for safety. He returned to England in H.M.S. *Retribution*, from Kazatch, last July. Since October last he has been with the 10th Com-

CRIMEAN ANTIQUITIES RECENTLY ADDED TO THE BRITISH MUSEUM.



ANTIQUARIAN MEMORIALS OF THE LATE WAR.

The classic ground of the Crimea has yielded many antiquarian spoils which will prove attractive to the visitors of our National Collections. Already the British Museum possesses a group of these relics which have been presented by Dr. Duncan Macpherson, whose explorations we have illustrated in our Journal. They are Greek, Roman, and Anglo-Saxon, and were brought by Dr. Macpherson from Kertch and Sebastopol. They are represented in the Engraving as follows:—

1. Glass Vessels from the Kertch Museum (Roman).
2. Roman Glass Vessel, containing gold.
3. Roman Lamps from Kertch.
4. 4. Brooches, Buckles, and other personal ornaments (Roman).
5. Roman Bronze.
6. Brooches of Brass, one jewelled.
7. Anglo-Saxon Glass Beads of various colours and forms.
8. Ox's Head of Silver.
9. Coffin Nails.
10. Carved Ornament from parts of a tomb opened near Kertch.
11. Ancient Comb.
12. Fragment of Greek Sculpture.

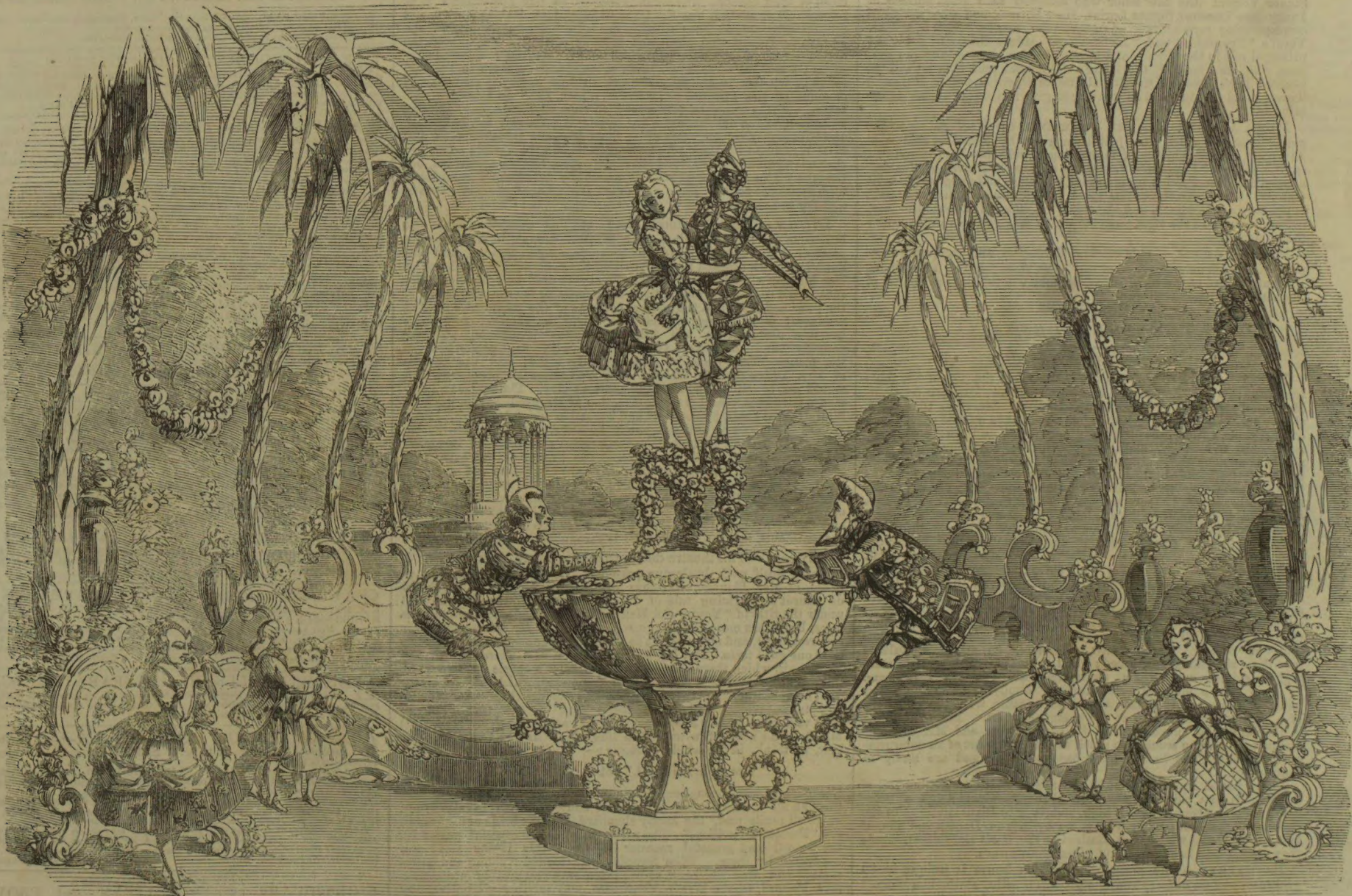
These are a portion of a valuable collection of ancient ornaments and relics obtained from the catacombs at Kertch. They are the result of the excavations carried out at Dr. Macpherson's expense during the occupation of Kertch by the Allied Armies, and the unfortunate destruction of the precious collections heretofore procured in the museum at that place has given an increased interest and value to the relics disinterred by Dr. Macpherson. Interesting as are the objects of Greek art, in this group the relics of a later age are of even greater interest to the English antiquary. These consist of personal ornaments of bronze, identical in form with those found in the Anglo-Saxon cemeteries in our own country, explored by the Hon. R. Neville and other archaeologists. The presence of these remains of so distinctly Saxon a character in the catacombs of Kertch can only be explained by the supposition that they are vestiges of some of the Verangian body-guards of the Byzantine Emperors. The Anglo-Saxon origin of many of those warriors is clearly stated by Ordericus and other historians.

Already these antiquities attract great attention at the British Museum; and while examining them we were glad to see a party of soldiers whose breasts were ornamented with the Crimean war medals examining these objects with great care, and who were surprised to learn that people from this soil had found graves so close to their comrades at such a remote period. In an adjoining case are the remains of Greek and Roman art, from Sebastopol and the neighbourhood, which have great value. We cannot help regarding those trophies as of as much importance as the warlike engines, &c., which have reached our shore; and are glad that, by the kindness of the donors, they are so safely preserved for the use of the nation.

We need scarcely remind our readers that at the late meeting of the British Association Dr. Macpherson exhibited several hundred specimens of pottery, personal ornaments, vessels of glass, coins, beads, carved ivory, and other objects of interest found in the excavations. There was also exhibited a portion of the wine found in a white glass vessel placed at the head of a chief, whose tomb bore the trace of being the resting-place of one of the most distinguished of the tribe. A bottle of pure

pany Royal Sappers and Miners, Light Division, Captain Brine, to whom he belongs. He wears a copper collar made of Sebastopol metal; is an excellent water dog, a good fetcher and carrier, and is about two years and a half old.

For the foregoing account we are indebted to Captain Brine, R.E.



naphtha from the springs of Yenikale, some of the mud from the volcanoes in the same neighbourhood, and some water from the sulphur springs, were also shown. In some of the tombs Dr. Macpherson found walnuts, and grains of corn and rice, in an astonishing state of perfection. The bodies, as described by that gentleman, were reduced to a fine dust, but in some few instances particles of the wood coffins were traced. The hair and the teeth were in fair preservation, and the jawbones and the femur, especially those dug out of the clay, are still tolerably sound.

MUSIC.

WE mentioned the unexpected and unexplained failure of Herr Formes to appear at the last performance of the "Messiah" by the Sacred Harmonic Society; and it gives us pleasure to find that this eminent artist has satisfactorily accounted for his absence. He had also disappointed the Manchester public by not appearing at a concert given by Mr. Hallé, the well-known pianist. The following letter from Herr Formes appeared in a Manchester paper on Monday last:—

(To the Editor of the Manchester Examiner and Times.)

Sir,—I should feel deeply obliged by the insertion of the following, as an explanation of my non-appearance at the concert given by Mr. C. Hallé in the Free-trade Hall, on the 17th inst.:—At two o'clock in the afternoon of Friday, the 12th, I received in London a telegraphic message from Berlin, requiring me to be in that city at the very earliest moment possible, in order to be present at the examination of my son. He is a student in the King's College, Berlin. By the laws of Prussia every young man at the age of twenty must serve three years in the army; but, if he be a student, or of the nobility, he may, after passing through the college, submit himself to an examination, as a test of his fitness for an officer; and, in the event of being successful, he is liable to only one year of compulsory service. But, Sir, when the father of any such student is alive, it is absolutely requisite to success that he should attend before the military commission, in order personally to attest the identity of his son. This, Sir, was my position; and I need scarcely ask you, or the public, to believe that I was anxious to be present at the examination—which, I may add, must be gone through one year before the period arrives at which the students are liable to the conscription. I was compelled to leave London early on Saturday; all my time after receiving the message was engaged in procuring my passport and making other necessary arrangements; and I could not, I assure you, write personally to Mr. Hallé to explain and apologise for the disappointment I was necessitated to cause. But, Sir, I directed my secretary to write to that effect early on the Saturday morning. If he did not do so he disobeyed my express instructions, and I very much regret it. I can most safely affirm that by no wilful or avoidable act of mine would I have caused annoyance or disappointment to my friend Mr. Hallé; and I am too deeply sensible of the kindly warmth with which I have ever been received in Manchester not to desire, by all means, to avoid disappointing my friends among the public. I will only add that, by my presence in Berlin, I succeeded in securing for my son the one year's service only.

I am, Sir, very respectfully yours,

CARL FORMES.

Manchester, Dec. 29, 1856.

This letter, it might be supposed, would be quite sufficient for Herr Formes's exculpation. But, on the same evening, when he appeared at M. Jullien's concert, at the Free-trade Hall, an attempt was made to get up a demonstration against him. Slips of paper were abundantly circulated in the hall, on which was printed "Remember Herr Formes's conduct on the occasion of Mr. Charles Hallé's Miscellaneous Concert. Hiss!" This silly piece of malice had just the effect which it ought to have had. When Formes appeared a feeble attempt was made to raise a hiss, but it was instantly drowned in the applause which burst from every corner of the hall. Of course we do not for a moment suspect Mr. Hallé, who is a gentleman as well as an artist, of any participation in this piece of impotent malignity. As to Formes himself, he has, during his long sojourn in this country, been equally remarkable for his great talents and for his correct fulfilment of every professional duty.

ITALIAN OPERA IN THE PROVINCES.—Mr. Beale has just issued the prospectus of a new undertaking, by which he proposes to give Italian operas at Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Dublin during the months of February and March. The company will include Mmes. Grisi, M. and Mmes. Gassier, Signor Volpini (the new tenor who achieved such great success at Drury-lane Theatre), Signor Lorini, Herr Formes, and other artists of corresponding reputation. Amongst the operas selected will be Verdi's "Trovatore" and "La Traviata." Mmes. Grisi sustaining the principal rôle in the former, and Mmes. Gassier playing, for the first time, the heroine of the latter. The band and chorus will be selected from those of the Royal Italian Opera and Her Majesty's Theatre, and nothing will be wanting to give full effect to the entertainments.

MDME. GASSIER AND THE "CARNIVAL OF VENICE."—At the grand concerts which have just been given by Monsieur Jullien at Liverpool and Manchester an interesting novelty has been introduced in the shape of Paganini's variations on the "Carnival of Venice," arranged for vocalisation by Monsieur Benedict, and sung by Madame Gassier. The provincial critics speak in the most enthusiastic terms of the lady's performance, and state that the effect is at once the most extraordinary and the most pleasing which has yet been produced by the human voice.

HENRY RUSSELL.—This celebrated vocalist and composer purposes giving his entertainment of the "Far West" at the Marylebone Institution, and at the Eyre Arms, St. John's Wood, in the course of the ensuing week.

THE THEATRES, &c.

THE CHRISTMAS PIECES.

DRURY LANE.—We have already described the plot of the pantomime at this house, under the title of "See, Saw, Margery Daw; or, Harlequin and the Island of Ups and Downs." Mr. E. L. Blanchard, the author, is one of those literary men who have worked at this class of Christmas entertainment with a conscience, and his "openings," as they are technically called, are frequently meritorious, and purposely intellectual. He claims, indeed, for the present the character of "symbolical and parabolic," and his claim is justified. The "great globe itself," as we learn from the playbills, is the island in the sea of space, where the reverses are prevalent that form the argument of the show. So much for the symbol. The parable is equally evident. Those who labour are alone entitled to a holiday. "The Mine of Labour leads to the Mine of Wealth." The subject is illustrated by the pencil of Mr. Beverley, whose scenes of the "Mistletoe Home," and "The Fairy Factory of Fancy," are among his most brilliant efforts. A double harlequinade follows the transformation, the two *Clowns* being represented by Messrs. Boleno and Flexmore. The French acrobat, M. Auriol, is also engaged. The appointments of the piece are costly, and the tricks as various as they are amusing. We think that, take it for all in all, the audience laugh more at this house than at others. There must, therefore, be many stimulants in the situations produced; and, indeed, unless it were highly spiced, so long a pantomime would prove wearisome. It is, in fact, a monster entertainment, occupying more time than usual by a great deal; in fact, the whole evening, with the exception of a trifling one-act piece at the commencement. The pantomime is, therefore, one feature of the performance, and Mr. Smith is fortunate in having secured so much talent in support of an enterprise so important. The houses have been crowded, and are likely to continue so.

A very useful embellishment has just been added to the fine hall of this theatre. In a pair of superb colossal cut-glass candelabra, or gasoliers; each is about nine feet high, and is a brilliant addition to the lighting of the hall. They were made by Messrs. Defries and Son, of Houndsditch, and were much admired at the Paris Exhibition, where they were shown as specimens of glass manufacture.

HAYMARKET.—The pantomime at this house is unique in its prettiness and its nursery simplicity. "Tis silly, sooth, like the old age," and rejoices in the innocence of the "ancient ballad," the interest of which it would revive. "The Babes in the Wood" is a theme suited to Mr. Buckstone's taste; as pathetic as "Green Bushes," and as popular in its elements. The subject is, of course, idealised by the treatment; and in aid of this purpose the painter and the machinist have exhausted their resources. The scene of "the Tranquil Lake in the Elysian Fields of Light" is of great brilliancy and beauty; and for it the audience rightly decreed an ovation to Mr. Calcott. Some terpsichorean imitations by Mr. Driver, which included Perea Nena and Fanny Elssler, were also much applauded. The harlequinade was decidedly successful; and the whole entertainment, which is exceedingly neat, and aims at those points which befit an elegant drawing room performance, may be pronounced of superior merit.

PRINCESS.—The theme of the pantomime at this house is capable of all the gorgeousness of Oriental display; and often as the subject of "Aladdin and his Wonderful Lamp" has been dramatised, it, perhaps, was never rendered more effective than by Mr. Morton and the scenic machinists of this establishment. There is something wonderful in the way in which Mr. C. Kean contrives to get such things done as the descent of "the Flying Palace"—the bridal present to the hero and Princess of the marvellous legend. There are also a dazzling "Turneresque" scene of the Enchanted Cavern, and another representing "the sanctorum of the magician," which are perfect. The harlequinade was full of points, in which mirth and taste were judiciously united, and suited to the appreciation of a polite and fashionable audience. There is much novelty in some of the tricks, and considerable animation in the situations—such, for instance, as the skating scene, and the performance of the dogs and monkeys in *Pantomime Park*, which are likely to become the most salient portions of the general action. Whether we regard the amount of imagination so freely expended on pieces of this class, or that of real talent so lavishly bestowed on the artistic and pictorial department, we can have no hesitation in recording that the present age is behind none in the art of producing pantomime, and excels all in the liberality with which it caters for the public gratification. The magnificent display of theatrical embellishment exhibited in a single evening at this theatre, cannot but excite both astonishment and reflection.

ADELPHI.—This theatre deservedly takes credit to itself for having originated the composite entertainment of burlesque-pantomime now generally adopted in preference to pantomime pure and simple. As public taste improves, public amusements aim at a higher and yet higher mark; and Christmas pieces are projected upon a scale of literary expense as well as scenic splendour little thought of in ruder periods. The pantomime opening is no longer abandoned to the mere writer of doggerel, but shows marks of careful authorship, and aspires to mythological importance never dreamed of in former days. Not only the requirements of the nursery have to be consulted, but those demands which the advanced intellect of the adult portion of the audience make on the talents of those who expect the patronage of the intelligent. Accordingly a meaning must be implied in the extravagance committed, and a deep significance lies in the ostensible absurdity which only the shallow would regard as merely intended to excite thoughtless laughter. The introductions to the Christmas pantomimes at the Adelphi have been characterised by singular elegance, and have included a combination of classic and romantic allusion which has been exceedingly graceful and judicious. Instruction and amusement have gone hand-in-hand, and co-operated in producing a result by which the mind of the spectator has been stimulated and improved. The pantomime of this season, "Mother Shipton, her Wager; or, Harlequin Knight of Love and the Magic Whistle," blends the various delightful elements to which we have alluded. The general story we have already set forth in our previous Number; and the reader must have been impressed by the delicacy of the fable, which opposes moral and magical agencies, and gives the triumph to the former. In working out this amiable purpose a beautiful visionary spectacle is presented, in a series of finely-painted scenes, in which all is in harmony with the leading idea, which is further illustrated by some subordinate imaginings of a subtle poetic character, for which the audience are indebted solely to the prodigality of the writer's talent, and which are not generally provided or expected in compositions of the sort. Madame Celeste and Miss Wyndham, as *Sir Beau* and *Constance*, present two moving Watteau portraits which are perfectly charming; and the scenes that they move among—from the coast of Normandy to the scene in China, where *Harlequin* and *Columbine* descend on the stage invested with the delicate honours of porcelain, and looking for all the world like an animated Dresden vase—are all appropriately distinguished for their fitness to unite in one pleasing impression that an exquisite invention has been diligent to bring together the choicest of its treasures, and excite those emotions which are only experienced when a true work of art is witnessed and recognised as "a thing of beauty." The legend of "Leda and the Isle of Naxos" is especially of this character; and the fairy herself is sweetly portrayed by Miss Keeley, who in these ideal creations always acts in sympathy with the mind of their author. The scene presented in our Illustration is of remarkable brilliancy, but the taste displayed in its conception and arrangement are at least equal to the splendour of its appointments. The same refined and chastened taste is exhibited throughout the harlequinade, in which the tricks are not of the usual accidental character; but many of them evidently proceed from a more intellectual range of wit than is generally brought to bear upon the chances and changes of the pantomimic scene. When, also, we consider that actors, not pantomimists, condescend to such characters as *Clown* and *Pantaloon*, which are impersonated by Mr. Garden and Mr. Moreland, and that *Harlequin* and *Columbine* have Madame Celeste herself and Miss Wyndham for their representatives, it will be readily conceived that not alone a mere material vehicle of whim has been provided, but that the whole is realised and animated by intellectual capacity of high histrionic rank. Thus supported the Adelphi piece is secure of a prolonged existence.

LYCEUM.—The Christmas piece at this theatre unites the burlesque and the pantomime. Mr. William Brough, in Lord Byron's poem of "The Corsair," had a picturesque story to arrange, and was doubtless much assisted by the ballet on the same subject produced at Her Majesty's Theatre. The dialogue of "Conrad and Medora" (for such is the title of his production) is remarkable for the frequency of the puns and jests, and the general neatness of the versification. The argument is so managed that the burlesque element frequently becomes absorbed in the interest of the situations, and we actually find ourselves sympathising with the personages of the scene. These were, in fact, capably acted; and the *Medora* of Mrs. Dillon may be selected as a true dramatic portrait, which would not be out of place even in a serious play. The scenic arrangements have been confided to the direction of Mr. Fenton, who has done himself great credit by the skill and invention which he has displayed. He has exhausted his greatest power, however, on the transformation scene, which, with its unfolding brilliancies and repeated surprises, is productive of accumulated effects. The beauty of the expanding perspective is further enhanced by the crowd of domes and minarets, columns and turrets, which, in golden, silver, and rosy lights, successively reveal themselves to the astonished spectator. This was the climax of the performance. The harlequinade that succeeds is lively, and full of points. Evidently great expense has been lavished on the appointments, and the *mise en scène* is throughout excellent.

OLYMPIC.—This theatre differs from the others, inasmuch as it contents itself with burlesque pure and simple, from the pen, as usual, of Mr. Planché, who has availed himself of the Countess de Murat's charming tale of "Jeune et Belle," here dramatised under the title of "Young and Handsome." The piece has not all the force, but it has more than the usual elegance, of Mr. Planché's former extravaganzas, and depends not so much on its appeals to our risibility as to our good taste. Mr. Robson appears in a new character—that of *Zephyr*—in which there is no call on the actor's tragic extravagance, but a peculiar lightness of manner is demanded, which, in the abundant comprehensiveness of his genius, this excellent performer is at no loss to supply. Both as a sprite and a fop (for even in such various guise the attributes of *Zephyr* are successively presented) Mr. Robson's acting illustrated the line which he had to deliver—the best, we think, in the whole dialogue:—

"I'm a 'brave spirit,' not an 'area sneak.'"

His *Zephyr* was throughout a piece of Watteau art, and fluttered through all the intricacies of pastoral courtship with infinite grace, until, all perils past, the happy shepherd and his bride are united in the "Porcelain Pavilion." The performers deserve especial praise for the careful and graceful manner in which this pretty story was conducted by them. Miss Swanborough looked "young and handsome," and Miss Thirlwall, as her lover, was remarkably interesting. Mrs. Melford, as the Witch *Mordianta*, was terribly vindictive, and superbly dressed. The scenery is very exquisitely painted, and the costumes are some of the prettiest we ever witnessed. Mr. Wigan's theatre may date from this production a new lease of popularity.

. In dismissing the pantomimes of the season we may add that they have been uniformly successful; and that they are, without exception, all highly meritorious. The speaking harlequinade at the STRAND is likely to prove highly acceptable. The well-known "Arabian Nights Entertainment" of "The Fisherman and the Genie," at SADBLES' WELLS, has been remarkably well illustrated by the scenic powers of Mr. Fenton. The SURREY maintains its superiority for the production equally of the gorgeous and grotesque in its pantomimic efforts; and ASTLEY'S is still unique in its equestrian appointments. Mr. Cooke, in his war-chariot drawn with eight steeds,

"is a sight to see." THE STANDARD and CITY of LONDON have both produced pieces full of beautiful scenery; and the MARYLEBONE, under the direction of Mr. Emery, has opened to a crowded audience, by whom he was enthusiastically welcomed.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

SUNDAY, Jan. 4.—2nd Sunday after Christmas.
MONDAY, 5.—Duke of York died, 1827.
TUESDAY, 6.—Twelfth Day. Epiphany.
WEDNESDAY, 7.—Fenelon died, 1715.
THURSDAY, 8.—Fire Insurance due.
FRIDAY, 9.—Archbishop Laud beheaded, 1645.
SATURDAY, 10.—James Watt born, 1736. Royal Exchange burnt, 1838.

TIMES OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON-BRIDGE,

FOR THE WEEK ENDING JANUARY 10, 1857.

Sunday.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.
h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m
7 40	8 10	8 45	9 20	10 25	11 5	11 40
Tide.	0 15	0 50	1 17	1 45	2 10	

Now ready, price One Shilling.

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON ALMANACK for 1857, containing Twelve splendid Fine-Art Engravings, Twelve elegant Designs Emblematic of the Month; Portraits of eminent Naval, Military, and Diplomatic Men connected with the late War; Notes of the Months, Articles of the Calendar, Mahometan and Jewish Calendars for the Year, Length of the Seasons, Beginning and Ending of University and Law Term; Dublin on Every Day in the Year; the Times of the Moon Rising and Setting on Every Day near London, Times of High Water, &c.; Astronomic Phenomena, applicable to each Month, Eclipses, &c.; with Twelve large Diagrams illustrating the appearance of the Heavens in the Evening of Every Month in the Year; Recently-discovered Planets; Meteorological Instruments and their Uses; Queen and Royal Family; Cabinet Ministers; Government and Law Officers and Officers; City Officers; Analysis of the Metropolitan Local Management Act; Metropolitan Officers of Health; Stamps, Taxes, Law and University Terms; Historical Memoranda on the Paper Duty, &c.; The Astronomical Department by J. GLAISHER, Esq., F.R.S., of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich.—Published at the Office of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, 198, Strand.

THEATRE ROYAL, HAYMARKET.—Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, commence at Seven, with the Comedy of THE WONDER. Don Felix, Mr. Murdoch; Violante, Miss Reynolds. After which the Pantomime of the BABES in the WOOD; or Harlequin and the Cruel Uncle. On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, Three Jovial Nights, when the Pantomime will conclude shortly after Ten. Commencing at seven, with the JACOBITE, after which the Pantomime, and MAKE YOUR WILLS, in which Mr. Buckstone will appear.

ROYAL PRINCESS' THEATRE.—Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM. Saturday, the CORSIKIAN BROTHERS. The Pantomime every Evening. Mendelssohn's celebrated Overture to Midsommer Night's Dream will commence Five minutes before 7. On FRIDAY NEXT, Jan. 9th, there will be a MORNING PERFORMANCE of the PANTOMIME. To commence at TWO o'clock. Doors to be open at Half-past One.

ADELPHI THEATRE.—The PANTOMIME every Night.—First week of A NIGHT at NOTTING-HILL.—MONDAY and during the week, DOMESTIC ECONOMY. Mr. Wright. A NIGHT at NOTTING-HILL. Messrs. Wright and Paul Bedford. ALTHEA SUTTON, or Harlequin Knight of Love. Harlequin and Columbine, à la Watteau, Madame Celeste and Miss Wynham.

ASTLEY'S ROYAL AMPHITHEATRE.—A MORNING PERFORMANCE every SATURDAY at Two o'clock.—Monday, Jan. 5, and all the Week, RICHARD III., with Equestrian Illustrations. Richard, Mr. James Holloway. After which the SCENES in the CIRCLE. To conclude with a new Grand Equestrian Comic Pantomime, called PAUL PRY ON HORSEBACK; or, Harlequin and the Magic Horseshoe. Commence at a Quarter before Seven o'clock.

GREAT NATIONAL STANDARD THEATRE.—The GREAT PANTOMIME of the SEASON is, as usual, the "Standard." The Transformation Scene the most beautiful, most costly, and complicated piece of machinery ever witnessed. Morning Performance, Monday, at 12.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC.—THE CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENTS this year are on the most liberal and extensive scale.

New Lecture by H. J. PEPER, Esq., on "Optical Illusions," with curious experiments. Juvenile Lecture on "Fireworks," with increased Illustrations and Exhibition of the Grand "British Bouquet," displaying the Portraits of Her Majesty, Prince Albert, and the Royal Family, in magnificent Pyrotechnics, by Mr. Darby. Miniature Juvenile Model Theatre, by Mr. Freeman, who will exhibit the Ghost Scene from the "Corsican Brothers." Mr. Logrenia's astonishing Conjuring Tricks and Comic Delusions. Entire new series of Dissolving Views by Mr. Clare, illustrating the "Traveller's Portfolio." Second Gratuitous Distribution of thousands of beautiful ornaments and Maripha's Pocket-Knives from the Giant Christmas Tree next Thursday (Morning and Evening), 8th January. Second and most costly series of Dissolving Views, illustrating Blue Beard, with humorous and original descriptions by Leicester Buckingham, Esq. Admission to the whole, 1s.; children and schools, half-price.

MR. W. S. WOODIN'S OLIO OF ODDITIES, with new costumes and various novelties, vocal and characteristic. EVERY EVENING (Saturday excepted), at Eight. A Morning Performance every Saturday, at Three. Private Boxes and Stalls may be secured without extra charge, at the Box-office.—Polygraphic Hall, King William-street, Charing-cross. The Hall has been entirely redecorated.

SALLE VOUSDEN, 315, Oxford-street (ten doors from the Regent-circus).—VALENTINE VOUSDEN, the great Polynesian Mimic, in his Original Entertainment, the UNITY OF NATIONS, every evening (Saturday excepted), at 8 o'clock.—Seats, 3s., 2s., and 1s., may be secured at Mitchell's, 53, Old Bond-street.—Day Performance on Saturday, at 2 o'clock.

GENERAL TOM THUMB HAS ARRIVED.—This American MAN IN MINIATURE, undoubtedly the smallest in the world, intelligent, sprightly, educated, perfectly symmetrical in all his proportions, and graceful beyond belief, will hold THREE PUBLIC LEAVES EACH DAY, for a short time only, previous to visiting Ireland, Scotland, and Paris, whence he proceeds to Russia, at the REGENT GALLERY, Quadrant, Regent-street. He will appear in a great variety of new Characters and Costumes, Songs, Dances, Grecian Statues, &c. His Miniature Equipage will promenade the streets daily. The General was honoured with the patronage of Her Majesty and the Gilt of fashion in 1844. PARTICULAR NOTICE.—Ladies and families who can conveniently attend the early Morning Leaves (from 11 till 1 o'clock) will incur much less inconvenience from the crowd than by visiting the later leaves. Hours of Exhibition from 11 to 1, 3 till 5, and 7 till 9 o'clock. Admission to promenade, area, and gallery, without regard to age, 1s.; reserved stalls, 2s.; children, 1s.; drawing-room seats, 3s.; children, 1s. 6d.

THE SISTERS SOPHIA AND ANNIE in their Original Entertainment, entitled SKETCHES from NATURE, &c., will appear, MONDAY, Jan. 5, 1857, and during the Week, at the Queen-street Hall, EDINBURGH.

LIFE IN ALGERIA. By HENRY BLACKBURN, Esq.—On TUESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 27, a LECTURE upon LIFE IN ALGERIA will be delivered at the MARYLEBONE LITERARY INSTITUTION, by HENRY BLACKBURN, Esq., in Moorish Costume, illustrated by Paintings and Original Sketches.—Admission, 1s.; reserved seats, 2s. Tickets to be taken at the Institution, 17, Edwards-street, Portman-square. Doors open at 7½ p.m.; commence at 8 precisely. Members, half-price.

CALDWELL'S ASSEMBLY ROOMS, Dean-street, Soho.—SOIREE D'ANSTANT Every Night.—Arrangements for the New Year's festivities. Admission 1s. The second Bal Masqué will take place on Thursday, Jan. 8, 1857. "Don't forget, papa, the annual juvenile ball, grand distribution, Christmas-trees, to take place on Tuesday, January 13, 1857, commencing at 7." Tickets 1s. each.

CANTERBURY HALL, Westminster-road.—OPEN EVERY EVENING.—The celebrated SPANISH MINSTRELS will appear in their National Costume at Nine and Eleven o'clock, in addition to the usual VOCAL ENTERTAINMENTS. Suppers, &c., until Twelve o'clock.

SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY, EXETER-HALL.—Conductor, Mr. COSTA.—On FRIDAY NEXT, JANUARY 9th, 1857, MENDELSSOHN'S LOBESANG and MOZART'S REQUIEM. Vocalists: Madame Clara Novello, Mrs. Lockey, Mr. Sims Reeves, and Mr. Thomas. With Orchestra, of 700 performers.—Tickets, 3s., 5s., and 10s. 6d.; or Subscriptions, one, two, or three guineas each (the two latter classes only being entitled to extra tickets for the two past Subscription Concerts), now ready at the Society's Office, No. 6, in Exeter Hall.

HANWELL COLLEGE AND PREPARATORY SCHOOL.—THE TERMS of this long-established, economical, and successful institution may be had on application to the Principal. N.B. Unusual and very peculiar advantages are afforded to Young Gentlemen destined for India.

CITY of LONDON SCHOOL, Milk-street, Cheapside.—Established and Endowed by Act of Parliament, and under the Management of the Corporation of London. Head Master, the Rev. GEORGE F. W. MORTIMER, D.D., of Queen's College, Oxford. The ensuing TERM (extending to Easter) will COMMENCE on TUESDAY, JAN. 13. The year is divided into three terms; fee for each term, £2 15s. The course of instruction includes the English, French, German, Latin, and Greek languages, mathematics, arithmetic, writing, book-keeping, geography, history, drawing, the elements of chemistry and natural philosophy, and vocal music. Persons desirous of entering their sons as pupils may obtain prospectuses of the School, containing also particulars of the Scholarships, Exhibitions to the Universities, and other advantages attached to it, at the school, between the hours of ten and four. Some of the Masters receive boarders. THOMAS BREWER, Secretary.

SOUTHWARK METROPOLITAN and PROVINCIAL FREEHOLD LAND and HOUSE SOCIETY. TRUSTEES. Apsley Pellatt, Esq., M.P.; George Scovell, Esq.; James Taylor, Esq. SIX PER CENT ON DEPOSITS. Dividends payable on the 1st of January and 1st of July. Offices, 4, Wellington Chambers, London-bridge, Southwark. RICHARD BRETZ, Secretary. N.B. The Dividends due last January are now payable at the Offices. Prospectuses forwarded on application.

THE BRITISH CAVALRY.—GENTLEMEN who have PASSED their EXAMINATIONS at Sandhurst and Addiscombe, and now await their Commissions, can, from the 1st of February next, be received on monthly terms at the CAVALRY COLLEGE, MOHAMMADON, for purposes of Drill and General Cavalry Instruction. The same privilege is extended to all gentlemen who have left Eton, Harrow, Winchester, Rugby, and Westminster. The terms may be known on application by letter to H. MANNING, Esq., Secretary to the College, No. 102, New Bond-street.

EXHIBITION of ART-TREASURES of the UNITED KINGDOM, 1857.—ISSUE of SEASON TICKETS.—The Executive Committee will be prepared to issue SEASON TICKETS for the forthcoming EXHIBITION on and after the 1st of January, 1857. The Committee are induced to make this early appeal for the support of the Public in order that they may be enabled more economically to meet the heavy pecuniary demands which the magnitude of the undertaking involves. The Season Tickets (not transferable) will be of two classes:—
1st. A Ticket—price £2 2s.—entitling the proprietor to admission on all occasions when the Exhibition is open to the Public.
2nd. A Ticket—price £1 1s.—entitling the proprietor to admission on all occasions when open to the public excepting only a limited number of days (not exceeding eight) reserved for state ceremonies or special attractions. Such reserved days will be duly advertised, and will include the days of opening and closing the Exhibition.
To prevent disappointment the Committee have to announce that, as upon the reserved days a limited number of visitors only can be conveniently and satisfactorily accommodated, they have determined that the registered owners of such limited number of the £2 2s. tickets as may be first issued shall be entitled to admission to the reserved parts of the building. When the limit of such issue shall be attained the fact will be announced by public advertisement.
The Exhibition will be opened early in May, 1857.
Tickets will be on sale at the Offices of the Exhibition, 100, Mosley-street, on and after the 1st of January, 1857.
Application for tickets, by letter, must be addressed to the Secretary; and Post-office Orders or remittances made payable to Charles Henry Minchin, Manchester.
By order of the Executive Committee,
15th December, 1856. Offices of the Exhibition, 100, Mosley-street, Manchester. THOMAS HAMILTON, Secretary.

ROYAL ORTHOPÆDIC HOSPITAL, for the Treatment of the Treatment of Clubfoot, Spinal and other Deformities, 315, Oxford-street (at Bloomsbury-square).
Number of patients admitted 20,000
Under treatment 1,600
Severe cases waiting for admission 200
Increased accommodations have been provided, but additional funds are required to render them available.
£10 10s. constitutes a Life Governor, £5 5s. a Governor for ten years, £1 1s. annually an Annual Governor.
Contributions thankfully received at Messrs. Martin's, 68, Lombard-street; Hanbury's, 60, Lombard-street; Union Bank of London, Argyl-place; and by the Secretary, at the Hospital.
GEORGE KEMP, M.A., Chap. and Hon. Sec.
BENJAMIN MASKELL, Secretary.

CURE of DEFECTS in SPEECH with EDUCATION.—A Select School is Established for the Removal of all Defects in Articulation in conjunction with the Notting-hill Private College School, under the direction of JAMES HUNT, Esq., Ph.D., M.R.S.L., &c. A Liberal Education under the first Masters is given, and the terms are moderate. For a Prospectus of Terms, and any further particulars, apply to the Principal, at the School, Cambridge House, Cambridge-crescent, Notting-hill, London, W.

STAMFORD-HILL LADIES' COLLEGE.—The LENT TERM COMMENCES on the 12th of JANUARY, 1857. Prospectus may be obtained on application to the Lady Resident at the College.

THE KENTISH-TOWN ESTATE.—The CONSERVATIVE LAND SOCIETY.—Votes for Middlesex. On THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, at the Offices, No. 33, Norfolk-street, Strand, W.C., the Kentish, in the York-road, in the parish of St. Pancras, will be allotted. There are 227 plots, varying in price from £2 4s. 6d. up to £1044 10s. per plot. Seven-eighths of the cost of each plot may be borrowed. For plans of one of the most valuable building estates ever yet offered by a Land Society apply to CHARLES LEWIS GRUNEISEN, Secretary.

THE YEAR 1857.

We have great pleasure in announcing various contemplated Improvements in the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, in the respective departments of Printing, Engraving, and Literary Contributions; also in announcing a series of the finest Works of Art. On February 7th,

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THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 1857.

THE startling intelligence of a new war in Asia closes the Old and begins the New Year. As if our hands were not full enough with Persia, our functionaries in the far East of the world have suddenly managed to embroil us with China. Yet the public, while regretting the catastrophe, are far from blaming the officials, who have upheld the honour of their country by the summary process of bombarding and half destroying one of the richest and most populous cities of the world. The circumstantial details which have been transmitted show that our Consul and our Admiral were not precipitate, and that they afforded ample time and opportunity to the Chinese Governor of Canton to make his peace. It was not until thirteen days after the Chinese had illegally boarded a vessel under British colours in the Canton river, carried off the crew, and insulted the British Consul, who asked for explanations, that Admiral Seymour and his fleet were called upon to interfere. But YEH, the Chinese Governor, with an obstinacy which, if displayed in a righteous cause, would deserve to be called heroism, treated the remonstrances of the Admiral with as much indifference as those of the Consul. Three days were given him for deliberation, at the end of which time, neither proper apology nor sufficient explanation having been given, Admiral Seymour attacked and captured the forts of Canton. It was thought after this that Governor Yeh would at least consent to hear what the representatives of Great Britain had to allege, but the semi-barbarian refused an interview. Again the Admiral gave him time for reconsideration, but his heart, if he had one, was hardened; and two clear days having elapsed, fire was opened upon the town and the Governor's Palace. The same ill-success attended this chastisement. The Governor was firm as adamant; and would, neither by word nor sign, promise explanation or make apology to the power which he had offended. After another lull of four days—which the Chinese authorities, if the original outrage

had been a mere inadvertency, and not a wilful and malicious act, might have usefully employed in propitiating an Admiral who had done them so much [damage, and could do them so much more—Governor Yeh showed that he was neither convinced nor mollified, nor inclined to enter into negotiations. The consequence was a still severer bombardment of the unfortunate city, the capture and destruction of twenty-three war-junks, and a considerable loss of life and property. When the last advice left, the Governor still remained obdurate, and a renewed bombardment was imminent.

The British public, until it knows more of the original cause of dispute, will refrain from passing any decided opinion upon this deplorable business. It is difficult to conceive that a man in the position of Governor Yeh would act with such obstinacy if he did not think he had right on his side; and it is equally difficult to excuse his pertinacious refusal of explanation, were he a thousand times more in the right than he possibly can be in this matter. But we must not measure things Asiatic by the standards of Europe. In Europe such a catastrophe could not have occurred, for no European officer, high or low, would have refused the British Admiral a courteous reply, or a personal interview, before incurring the penalty of a bombardment. But Asiatic functionaries have other codes and modes of procedure, and reason differently, if they reason at all. This country has certainly no motive for picking a quarrel with China; and, if it had, it would scarcely select the period when it was engaged against Persia, to embarrass itself with a new opponent. For this reason, as well as for those which appear on the face of the despatches, we incline to the belief that the British Admiral did reluctantly, and the work which he did so effectually, and that the chastisement inflicted upon the Chinese was alike well-merited and inevitable. In Europe, Great Britain may be slow to take offence, for the European States, knowing her power, are slow to give it. But in Asia, where our physical force is small, and our moral force great, and where the safety and allegiance of our mighty empire of India depend upon the terror of our name, and the prestige of our invincibility, we cannot allow ourselves to be bearded and set at defiance by potentates great or small. And, once involved in a quarrel, we must go through with it, and carry our point, for our failure would reverberate throughout Asia, and be turned to hostile account, not only by barbarous and semi-barbarous Asiatic chieftains, but by another European Power, which aspires to be our coequal in Asiatic dominion, if not to dispossess us altogether, and which can pull strings as wide apart as those both of Herat and Canton. Let us hope that the Chinese will learn wisdom from the past, and that nothing more serious will result from the unhappy dispute which has thus suddenly arisen at Canton than the successive bombardments which have been already narrated. The Chinese are too helpless to be foemen worthy of British steel; yet, if their obstinacy be such that they court the blow which we vain would spare, we owe it to others to make the blow effectual.

DOMESTIC politics are likely to excite more attention in the New Year than they did in the Old. The only public questions of much interest in 1856 sprang, directly or indirectly, from the war. If there were exceptions they might be found in the cases of monstrous swindling and cheating by men in high station, which were successively brought to light, to the scandal and loss of the community. The cessation of the war will leave the public mind more free for the consideration of matters of domestic and national concern; it is to be hoped that social as well as political improvement will be the result.

Among the most prominent of these questions is the treatment of our criminals. A community like that of the British Islands, amongst which wealth-worship has assumed alarming proportions, and which produces so many adulterators of food and drink; so many givers of false weight and measure; so many manufacturers of slop-goods; so many cheats behind the counter, worse than the shoplifters whom they sometimes prosecute; so many men of the class of the Pauls, the Saddlers, the Robsons, and the Redpaths; should inquire, before it becomes too virtuously indignant against the ticket-of-leave men and the garotters, whether its own morality is pure? The garotter is a wretch; but is he not a wretch also who establishes a fraudulent bank, and robs hundreds or thousands of innocent persons? Is he not a wretch who puts chalk and ground bones into the bread which he sells to the poor? Is he not a wretch who poisons—not for the sake of poisoning, but for the sake of his miserable profit—the drink that ought to be harmless or invigorating, and which is perhaps the only luxury of hardworking and honest families? He is a wretch who plunders a till; but is he not also a wretch who from the safe side of the till robs his customers? If, simultaneously with the discussion of proposed new methods of dealing with the criminal population, who make professional war against society, and who live by plunder as much as the tribes of the desert, our trading classes will seriously ask themselves whether the difference in the mode of robbery makes any difference in the guilt before God or man, there will be an improvement in the tone of society, and in the commercial morality of the whole people, which cannot but react favourably on the destitute, the ignorant, and the reckless. The more Redpaths and Robsons there are in one class, the more footpads and garotters there will be in another. The more fraud there is in the higher regions of trade and speculation, the more theft will be committed in regions lower down. The insecurity of the bank increases the insecurity of the street, and the dwelling-house. The lesson which our middle classes in our great commercial cities and towns ought to lay most earnestly to heart, is the lesson that it is neither wise nor honest to be over-hasty to grow rich. If, in such desperate struggle, men do not forget the precepts of virtue and religion which were instilled into them in their early years, they but too often sacrifice their health, and with it their usefulness. If the heart keep sound, the brain gives way. It is the great vice of our time that every one lives "too fast." The legitimate profits of trade and the fair rewards of professional skill are too scanty and too slow for the people of the present age. They like to travel on the road to Wealth and Power by the Express train. Each man lives amid a scurry and a scramble, and is drawn into the vortex, and whirls away like his fellows, until in but too many cases

the brain grows dizzy, and the boundary line between right and wrong becomes as indistinct to the mental eye as the landscape does to the eye corporeal, when the train is thundering over embankments at the rate of sixty miles an hour.

These matters are beyond the reach of the Legislature, and will take their course, subject only to such influences of religion and morality as may exist in the present or may be strengthened in the new generation. The treatment of our criminal population is an easier task, though surrounded by many difficulties. Yet we doubt not that the abolition of the ticket-of-leave system, and the return to transportation as a means both of punishment and of reformation, will relieve society of many of the terrors which have lately afflicted it, and clear our streets of garotters and other professional thieves, both young and old. But if the Legislature persist in maintaining that the duty of Law and Government is rather to punish than to prevent crime—if it persist in ignoring the destitute and deplorable condition of millions of British children, to whom the State accords the right of bread but not the right of instruction—the work will be commenced at the wrong end, and will, as a matter of necessity, be imperfectly performed. A system of education for the young should either precede or accompany any change of system for the punishment of the old. By its neglect Society breeds criminals; and when the criminals appear, and act according to their instincts and their training, Society opens its drowsy eyes in astonishment, and blames everything for the result, except its own apathy or hostility. Both of these questions—in comparison with which all the political and legal reforms that are spoken of, or meditated by rival parties in the Legislature, are of comparatively minor importance—bid fair to receive more attention in 1857 than they ever received before. We trust that the promise will be realised; and that, if all the vices of a high state of civilisation and of an over-crowded country cannot be removed, something will be attempted in the way of prevention as well as of punishment. Society does not come into court with clean hands when it asks the Judge to punish the offences of men and women, of which it might have prevented one half, or even a larger proportion, if it had performed its duty to the young children.

THE COURT.

The Christmas holidays of the Court have been shorn of their usual gaieties this year; and, with the single exception of the Earl of Clarendon, the recently bereaved Princes of Leiningen are the only visitors who have participated in the hospitalities of the Castle during the past week.

On Monday the Queen held a Court and Privy Council, at which Lord Vivian took the customary oaths on being appointed Lord Lieutenant of the county of Cornwall. Her Majesty gave audience to his Excellency M. Musurus, Ambassador from the Sublime Porte.

On Tuesday the Queen, with the Princesses Helena and Louise, and Prince Arthur, walked in the Home Park, and visited the Duchess of Kent at Frogmore. Prince Albert, accompanied by the Princes of Leiningen, went out shooting—Colonel Parker, 1st Life Guards, attending his Royal Highness. The Prince of Wales went to London, and attended Mr. Faraday's lecture at the Royal Institution.

On Wednesday the Queen and the Prince walked in the Home Park. The Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal and the Princess Alice rode out on horseback.

On Thursday the Queen's New Year's gifts to the poor of the parishes of Old and New Windsor and Clewer were distributed in the Riding-house.

The severe weather on Monday enabled the Prince Consort, with the Princes of Leiningen and the Prince of Wales, to enjoy the diversion of skating on the ice in the Home Park.

The Earl of Caithness and Lieut.-Col. F. W. Cavendish have succeeded Lord Rivers and Major-General Berkeley Drummond as the Lord and the Groom in Waiting on her Majesty.

His Excellency Count Creptowitch, Russian Minister at this Court, has left town for Paris. The Countess is also in Paris. The daily newspapers remark that the residence of the Russian Embassy in Chesham-place has now a more deserted appearance than at any period during the late war, while under the nominal control of his Excellency Baron Brunnow.

The Duke and Duchess of Sutherland arrived at Trentham a few days ago from Stafford House. Their Graces have been detained in town several weeks by the severe illness of the Earl of Ellesmere.

The Countess of Desart occupied the Queen's box at the Princess' Theatre on Monday night. Her Ladyship was accompanied by Viscount Castlereagh, and the Hon. Hamilton and Miss Cuffe; the Viscountess Brackley and her son; the Viscount Newry and Morne, &c.

The Countess of Erroll arrived in town last week from Slaines Castle, Aberdeenshire.

A matrimonial alliance is about to take place between Lord Alfred Churchill, the younger son of the Duke of Marlborough, and the Hon. Harriet Calthorpe, second daughter of Lord Calthorpe.

RE-ESTABLISHMENT of STEAM COMMUNICATION with AUSTRALIA.—A contract has been concluded by her Majesty's Government with the European and Australian Royal Mail Company for the conveyance of mails, once a month, by the route of Suez, between this country and the Australian colonies. The packets under this contract will depart from the port of Southampton, and, as in the case of the Indian mail, in addition to, and in connection with, the direct packet, a special service will be maintained via France, for the conveyance of supplementary mails from this country. The first mail to be dispatched via Southampton under the new arrangements will be made up in London on the morning of the 24th February next, and the first mail to be dispatched via Marseilles will be made up in London on the evening of the 28th February. Subsequently to those dates, the mails will be dispatched, uniformly, via Southampton, on the morning of the 12th of each month (commencing with the month of March), and via Marseilles on the evening of the 16th of each month. On these occasions, however, when the 12th of the month falls on a Sunday, the mails for Australia via Southampton will be made up and dispatched on the previous evening, and when the 16th of the month falls on a Sunday the mails will be made up and dispatched on the following evening. By command of the Postmaster-General, ROWLAND HILL, Secretary.—General Post-office, December 30.

ST. PAUL'S, ISLINGTON.—WORKING MEN'S INSTITUTE.—On Monday evening Mr. W. H. Caesar gave a lecture on music with vocal illustrations, secular and sacred, sung by an efficient choir, conducted by Mr. H. W. Mathews. Mr. J. T. Cooper, the organist of St. Paul's Church, Islington, presided at Broadwood's grand pianoforte, and played a solo of his own composing on national melodies, which was most applaudingly received by a large audience. The Rev. John Sandys, A.M., the respected Incumbent of the district, took the chair on the occasion. Meetings of this kind at which the clergy and the upper classes associate with their poorer brethren in a friendly and social spirit are highly calculated to promote the general welfare of society.

PROFESSOR HUSSEY'S LIBRARY.—The late Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History, Oxford, the Rev. Robert Hussey, B.D., has bequeathed his valuable library to his successor, the Rev. A. P. Stanley, of University College, on the understanding that it is to be retained for the use of all succeeding Regius Professors of Ecclesiastical History.

A SEAL SHOT IN THE THAMES.—A few days ago the attendant on the boats at the Feathers, Wandsworth, shot a large seal in the Thames, near the above place. It is a beautiful specimen of the species, and is the only one of the kind that has been seen by any one of the Thames fishermen above bridge. It measures four feet in length and two feet three inches in girth.

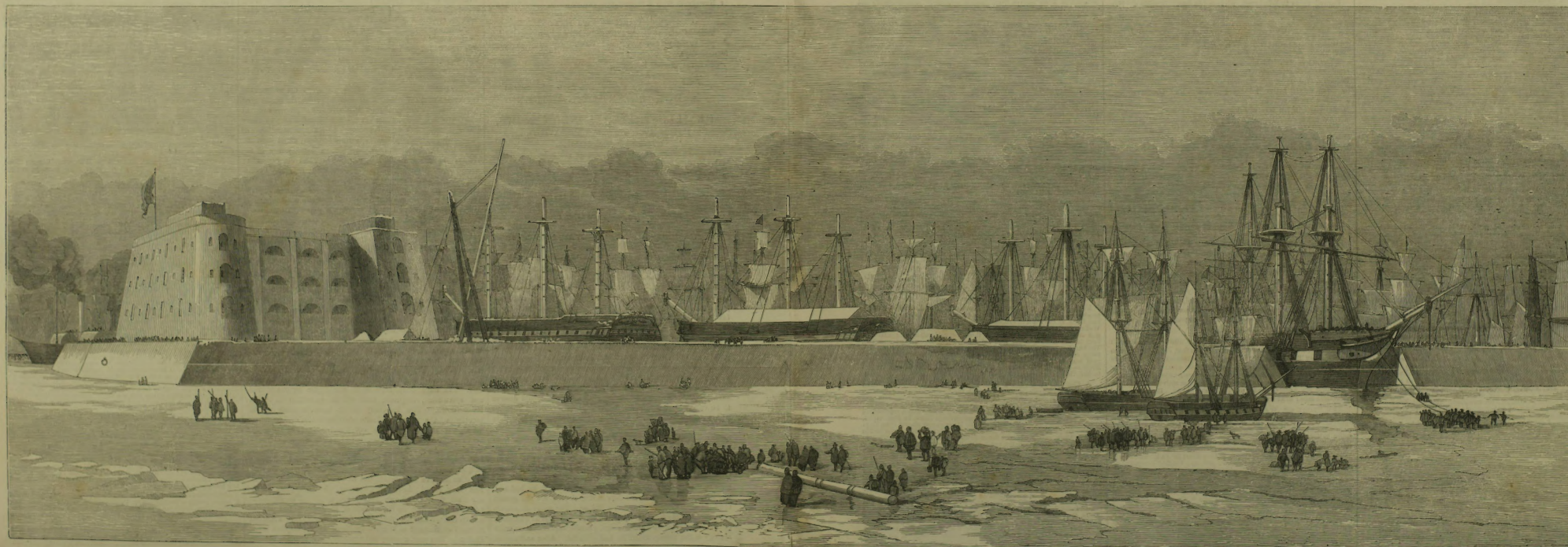
DISAFFECTION IN NAPLES.—There can be no longer any doubt of the existence of disaffection in the Neapolitan army. Three or four soldiers have destroyed themselves since the death of Milano, who attempted to kill the King. A severe political investigation is taking place amongst the Royal troops.

DINNER TO LORD PANMURE.—On Tuesday Lord Panmure was entertained at a public dinner by the county gentlemen of Forfar, to testify their respect for his Lordship as Lord Lieutenant of the county, and as an acknowledgement of his public services as Minister of War.

C R O N S T A D T I N T H E I C E .



C R O N S T A D T . — M E R C H A N T V E S S E L S I N T H E I C E . — S K E T C H E D B Y R . T . L A N D E L L S .



C R O N S T A D T . — O U T S I D E T H E M A N - O F - W A R ' S M O L E . — S K E T C H E D B Y R . T . L A N D E L L S .

CRONSTADT IN THE ICE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

HAVING finished the Sketches connected with the Coronation, and being warned by the increasing cold and frequent snowstorms, I resolved to depart while the Neva was still navigable. Sometimes the ice is for days not strong enough to bear, and there is too much ice for the passage of boats; so that an unpleasant interval might occur, obliging you to remain at Oranienbaum, the nearest place, whence you can cross to Cronstadt.

We steamed down the Neva, leaving the City of Palaces: the English Quay on our right, with the Admiralty and Winter Palace; on the left the Custom-house. Next we came to iron factories, with a crowd of wicked-looking little gun-boats, only waiting to be manned properly to prove troublesome customers to deal with. They are not so large as ours, and the construction is different: they are rounded at the bows and stern, something after the life-boat build. You do not see much of them above the water, and they appear to swim very deep: they have a saucy look as they puff and plough the water between St. Petersburg and Cronstadt.

The shores of the Neva are flat and uninteresting; the channel is marked out with poles and small flags, placed by Government to guide the mariner. A pole was next pointed out to me, with a broom attached, to mark the resting-place of some unlucky lighter that had found a watery grave; and, judging from the number of brooms, there must be a great many unlucky lighters.

We were now getting near unto the noted Cronstadt—the bugbear of the North. A Russian steamer passed us—at least all that remained of her. She was being towed up to St Petersburg for repairs, having been in collision off Cronstadt during the gale of yesterday. All the bulwarks were gone; the funnel, like crumpled black paper, lay on the decks; she was minus a paddle-box; in fact, she looked as if she had been very badly used. On the left bank might be seen the Palace of Peterhof, built upon such high ground that a good view could be obtained from it of the numerous islands of the Neva, with St. Petersburg and Cronstadt. You can hardly judge of the embellishments of this palace in the cold season, as all the statues are covered with matting to protect them. During the summer here are given splendid fêtes and illuminations; and the fountains are very curious from their great diversity of design. It was in this palace that Peter the Great died—at least in a Dutch summer-house, called Monplaisir, in the garden; and the bed upon which Peter died still remains untouched.

All was ready for landing, when there emerged from the forepart a detachment of foot soldiers, whom I had not previously noticed, for on board the Russian steamers there are iron gates between the fore and aft parts of the ships. The soldiers scrambled up a slippery gangway; I saw the bayonet of one of them graze the cheek of a mujik who was standing at the top of the gangway; he just wiped his cheek to see that there was no blood, and took no more notice. Having given up our tickets, we had no trouble on landing. As the mole where the vessel was lying we intended going by was some mile and a half distant, it was agreed that we should have a cart for the luggage and droskies for the passengers. I was left in charge of the wagon train, and as the roads were in a very slippery condition it was with difficulty that I could keep my equilibrium. We passed through the rampart-gate into the town. I had heard so much about Cronstadt that I felt curious to see it. I had previously been told that it was a dirty, ill-conditioned town; and when during my stay in St. Petersburg I expressed a desire to go to Cronstadt for a day's pleasure it caused much merriment. The streets are wide, the houses are small, the pavement is wretched. On our road to the Mole we passed the dockyard buildings; here were piles of guns and shot of every description; striped sentry-boxes; boats for the men-of-war; and all the usual appendages of a dockyard.

We now crossed the canals extending from the Middle and Merchants' Harbour into the town. The quays of these canals are of red granite, in large blocks, having an appearance of great solidity: this cannot be said of everything architectural in Russia, as there are a great many freaks in stucco.

We next turned to the left, and passed the Dvor, or market, where the ships obtain provisions, down to the Mole, where I proceeded to look after the other passengers, but could not find any trace of them. I learnt from a captain that our vessel was lying in the Man-of-War's Mole, more than a mile off; that she had not finished loading; and that we could never live on board on account of the cold, as fires were not allowed while lying there.

We were compelled to remain at an hotel at Cronstadt some days, during which we visited the places of interest. We took a walk round the bastion protecting the Merchants' Mole; it is one of the pleasantest resorts in Cronstadt. Here you see brass guns of heavy calibre lying about; they are intended to replace those that presented a front to Sir Charles Napier during his cruise in the Baltic in 1855. From what I saw and learned, the Russians were working harder than they were during the war. They have found out in what they are weak, and do not wait for another war to commence improvements. Eleven new frigates have been ordered to be built, and the factories of St. Petersburg and about the country were working night and day.

Passing the large dealyards at the end of the Merchants' Mole, we inquired for the Summer Garden, where it is said Peter the Great planted some trees: he must have had a great taste for planting, as several towns in Russia lay claim to the Imperial handiwork. At length we found the garden, and after the usual fee we were admitted, the porter evidently in wonder at what we wanted in the "Summer Garden" when the trees were covered with snow, and everything indicated the desolation of winter.

We proceeded to the Observatory, which stands in the centre of the garden, and from the top of which we enjoyed the best view to be obtained of Cronstadt and the fortifications—the harbour, crowded with shipping of all nations—and the numerous dockyards, filled with war material of every description.

During the night there had been a heavy fall of snow. It was now much colder, and the weather was of that clear and calm description which the mariner views suspiciously, when in Cronstadt, with a chance of being frozen in. We saw that the ice had formed during the night, and blocks were floating about in the Merchants' Mole several inches in thickness, impeding the passage of boats from the ships; while from the promenade nothing but the white fields could be seen as far as the eye could reach. Groups of captains in fur boots and mujiks' caps were gathered in circles, discussing the weather: some thought it the false winter, which generally sets in about this time, and breaks up, leaving the navigation open for a month afterwards; others thought it too severe to entertain such hopes.

We returned to the hotel, paid exorbitantly for the accommodation we had received, and started off once more. As there was too much ice in the Merchants' Mole for a boat to pass, we went round by one of the canals, where a boat was ready to receive us; two men were told off with boat-hooks to clear away the ice from the bows of the boat, the other passengers vigorously assisting with their umbrellas. It was a slow process, although the distance we had to go was but a stone's throw. At length we arrived on board, everything cold and dreary, but we were cheered with the news that we should have a fire immediately we were out of the Mole. The Russians worked away at a capstan, hauling us out, going round merrily to their *adin*, *dea* (one, two): we moved slowly, the ice crushing against the iron sides of the ship. At a short distance we were again stopped by the ice, and remained all night. A Russian frigate that had just returned from a cruise now commenced hauling into the Mole in our track. Our bowsprit getting entangled in some of her rigging, a party of Russian sailors were sent on board our steamer to assist in getting us out of our difficulty. An officer accompanied them, with whom I entered into conversation. He spoke English well; he had been in England, and visited our different naval arsenals. He said he knew what landmen we had to man our Baltic fleet! All the naval officers, I am told, are compelled to learn English; and it is, I believe, the intention of Government to send a certain number of cadets every year to various naval arsenals to study and compare the services. Next morning we had drifted some distance from the quay: all was still, save the crushing of the ice against vessels, with ice all round us. There was a report of four vessels having been cut through during the night: the packed ice as it floats down is very dangerous to wooden vessels, as the edges are like so many knives and are drawn with great force.

The Man-of-War's Mole as we left it, presented a very wintery aspect, such as I have pictured in the accompanying Sketch. Thus we left "Cronstadt in the Ice."

DINNER TO SIR EDWARD BULWER LYTTON.—We understand that Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton has been invited to a public dinner here on the 16th January, being the day following his installation as Lord Rector of our University.—*Glasgow Daily Mail*.

TOWN AND TABLE TALK ON LITERATURE, ART, &c.

WE are sorry to announce that Mr. Ford, the celebrated author of the "Handbook for Spain," who opened to English travellers, and assisted so materially in establishing, the English taste for the Spanish school of painting, has, on the ground of ill health, been obliged to resign his appointment as one of the Royal Commissioners for considering the site of the new National Gallery, and the propriety of transferring some of the many treasures of the overcrowded British Museum to the building to be erected who knows where? We expressed, a fortnight ago, the general satisfaction that was felt in Mr. Ford's appointment. His place is not easily to be supplied. His practical good sense, and the general esteem in which he is held, peculiarly fitted him for the appointment. His resignation will, we fear, retard the final settlement of the question which Lord Elcho last Session, with the best motives possible, threw into additional confusion.

As the meeting of Parliament approaches, the site of the new National Gallery is still more eagerly the subject of conversation. As far as we hear, the most active of the disputants are divided in favour of three sites:—1, Prince Albert's land, or South Kensington as it is now called; 2, Kensington Palace Gardens; 3, The present site. The arguments put forth in favour of the first are that the site is excellent, the ground vacant, and the land the property of the public. In favour of the second proposition it is urged that the site is further out of town than South Kensington and just as accessible to the public; that it lies higher; and that a public picture-gallery requires an approach of turf, and trees, and terrace, to lend full importance to pictures, and to preserve them properly. Of the present site it is said that it is in town, and that the site, in the language of the late Sir Robert Peel, is the finest in Europe. Such are the arguments usually put forth. We shall, indeed, be grieved if any heartburnings or dogged adherence to opinions already expressed should occur to throw over to another Session the full and final settlement of a question so important.

We are glad to observe from the recent announcements of treasures of art acquired for the forthcoming exhibition at Manchester that the committee have become a little tired of never-ending repetitions of "The Virgin and Child" (for which they evinced for a long time an un-Manchester-like partiality), and are now seeking to enlarge the collections they already possess of portraits of British worthies and of works of art illustrative of English manners and customs in bygone times. As the committee were proceeding we began to fear that the catalogue would become a provoking and tiring repetition of "Virgin and Child," and ditto, ditto, ditto, over fifty pages. There is now no fear of this. The committee have become fully alive to the charm of variety, and that "Virgins" and "Saints," however exquisitely painted, will not alone bring shillings to Manchester from Paris and Penzance.

We called attention last week to the many admirable *bits* to be found in the new volume of Boswell, and to the general incompetence of the editor. Read these bits: they refer to the yew-tree in the churchyard of Mamhead, in Devonshire, and to a promise of temperance made there in a sober moment by Boswell to his friend Temple, who then possessed the living of Mamhead:—

My promise under the solemn yew I have observed wonderfully, having never infringed it till, the other day, a very jovial company of us dined at a tavern, and I unwarily exceeded my bottle of old hock; and, having once broke over the pale, I run wild, but I did not get drunk. I was, however, intoxicated, and very ill next day. I ask your forgiveness, and I shall be more strictly cautious for the future. The drunken manners of this country are very bad.

Boswell refers to Edinburgh, whence his letter is written. Here is another passage to the same point:—

My promise under the solemn yew at Mamhead was not religiously kept, because a little wine hurried me on too much. The General [Paoli] has taken my word of honour that I shall not taste fermented liquor for a year, that I may recover sobriety. I have kept this promise now about three weeks. I was really growing a drunkard.

Who that is "up" in his Boswell does not immediately call to mind Johnson's expiatory self-punishment in the Market-place, and Boswell's vow under the yew-tree at Mamhead? Mr. Hawthorne (of "The Scarlet Letter") has just published (in "The Keepsake") a very pleasing account of a visit which he made to Uttoxeter market-place for the sake of Johnson, and the rain which the great moralist but undutiful son allowed to pour self-inflicted upon his head on the site of his father's stall. We have little doubt that Mr. Hawthorne, when in Devonshire, will pay a visit to the yew-tree at Mamhead. Mr. Pocock is safe to secure a drawing of it for his richly-illustrated Boswell.

Another bit from Boswell—from his death-bed, and in a different view from our former extracts:—

I am struck with your question—"Have you confidence to entreat the Divine aid?" In truth I am sensible that I do not sufficiently *try* my ways, as the Psalmist says; and am even almost inclined to think with you that my great oracle Johnson did allow too much credit to good principles without good practice.

Poor Boswell! With all his failings he was never wholly without a sense of religion.

People who collect catalogues of works of art, and comprehend the importance of having a good catalogue of a choice collection, should try to obtain a copy of the privately-printed catalogue of the pictures at Petworth which Colonel and Mrs. Wyndham have just presented to some of their friends. The pictures are some six hundred in number. The subjects are clearly defined; the masters almost in every instance correctly named; and, above all, there is a good index of painters and of portraits. Other great houses with fine collections should imitate so excellent an example.

DEATH OF MR. BRITTON.—We regret to announce the death of the venerable antiquarian and topographical author, John Britton, who closed his long life of industry and integrity on Thursday morning, at his house in Burton-street. His sufferings had been great for nearly four weeks, but he passed from among us in peaceful resignation. Mr. Britton had attained the great age of eighty-six; yet he was actively employed in completing his Autobiography until his last illness. He was a very remarkable man: next week we shall give a memoir of his exemplary life.

THE SPIRIT OF WASHINGTON.—The following advertisement appears in the *Washington (U. S.) Journal*:—"Communications with the spirit of Washington for oracular revelation of public fact and duty: responses tendered relative to executive or governmental, state or diplomatic, national or personal questions on affairs of moment for their more ready and appropriate solution, and the special use of official, congressional, and editorial intelligence. Address, 'Washington Medium,' Post-office, box 628, Washington, D.C. No letter (except for an interview) will be answered unless it inclose one dollar; and only the first five questions of any letter with but one dollar will have reply. Number your questions, and preserve copies of them."

THE NICARAGUAN WAR.—It is stated in the American papers just received that the correspondents of two of the New York journals, who have been engaged in recording the events of the war, were killed in the discharge of their duties.—Mr. Slate, of the *New York Herald*, and Mr. Swart, of the *Daily News*.

THE WESTMINSTER GREAT BELL was erroneously stated in a portion of the impression of our Journal of last week to be the work of Mr. Dent: the bell was cast by Messrs. Warner and Sons, and the clock was made by Mr. Dent.

COUNTRY NEWS.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS AT THE HIGHFIELD HOUSE OBSERVATORY, NEAR NOTTINGHAM, FOR THE WEEK ENDING DEC. 30, 1856.

Month and Day.	Corrected Reading of Barometer at 9 A.M. 181 feet above sea level.	Thermometer.		Mean Temperature of the Day.	Rain in Inches.	Mean Temperature of the Day.		Amount of Cloud, (6-10)	Mean amount of Cloud, (6-10)
		Highest Reading.	Lowest Reading.			Wet Bulb.	Evapo-ration.		
Dec. 24	Inches. 29.177	41.8	30.0	35.3	0.053	33.9	34.4	1	6
" 25	28.782	35.5	29.2	32.9	0.000	31.6	31.0	1	0
" 26	28.728	36.8	29.8	33.5	0.025	32.2	32.0	6	1
" 27	29.142	33.2	19.2	24.8	0.000	22.4	23.8	6	0
" 28	29.379	32.0	14.0	22.1	0.000	23.6	21.2	2	1
" 29	29.876	40.0	25.0	34.4	0.000	34.9	32.9	4	3
" 30	29.984	47.8	35.8	42.8	0.092	42.5	41.4	2	1
Mean	29.295	38.2	26.1	32.3	0.170	31.6	31.0	3.1	1.7

The Range of Temperature during the Week was 33.8 deg.

The Weather—25th, snow showers; 26th, snow and sleet, with lightning in evening; 27th and 28th, sharp frost; 28th, snow shower; 29th and 30th, thaw.

The Direction of the Wind was on 24th W., changing at sunrise to N.N.W., 8 a.m. to W., 6 p.m. to N.W.; on 25th was N. till 6 p.m., then W.; changing to N. at 10 a.m. on 26th; from this time it was between W.S.W. and N.W. till the 30th, when it oscillated between W. and S.W.

On 25th solar halo and mock suns; on 28th solar halo.

E. J. LOWE.

SOUTHAMPTON ELECTION.—Considerable excitement was caused in Southampton on Wednesday last in consequence of Mr. T. Falvey, stamp distributor of that town, having been suspended from his office by the Board of Inland Revenue for interfering in the Southampton election, by speaking at public meetings in favour of Mr. Richard Andrews, one of the candidates for the representation of the borough. Mr. Falvey is said to have acted under the advice of eminent counsel, who declared that he had a perfect right to do so previous to the issue of the writ to fill up the vacancy in the representation caused by the elevation to the Chief Justiceship of Sir Alexander Cockburn. Mr. Falvey had but recently been raised from a sub-distributor of stamps to that of stamp distributor, which is a far more lucrative office.

A RIVAL OF MR. SPURGEON.—A young gentleman of the name of Guinness, a relative of the great Dublin brewer, has lately been creating a sensation among the religious public in Devonshire. His admirers say that he has a voice quite as powerful as Mr. Spurgeon's, and much more sonorous and persuasive. He preached at Crediton on Tuesday last, when, the Baptist chapel not being capable of holding half the applicants for tickets, the music-hall at the Public Rooms was hired for the occasion, and, although more than 500 people were there crowded together, great numbers went away who could not gain admission.

A ROYAL SHAKEDOWN.—As the Prince of Wales and his tutor were travelling lately in the west of England, the landlord of a certain hotel, having reason to expect a visit from his Royal Highness, prepared his best rooms in his best style, and then waited day by day in feverish anxiety. One afternoon a gentleman and a youth arrived at the hotel, and asked if rooms could be had for the night. All the servants were in a bustle immediately, for the landlord was sure he discerned the young Prince and his tutor in the newly-arrived travellers. So the best rooms were speedily given to the guests, and every possible comfort was added to make them happy; while the landlord, with a certain knowing wink of bland satisfaction, behaved to his Royal visitors with the utmost deference, and yet without any open acknowledgment of their rank, as he knew it was desired to keep this concealed. Later in the evening, and when almost every room in the house had been filled, there arrived three more travellers, two gentlemen and a boy. When they asked for bed-rooms the landlord said, "Very sorry, gentlemen, we have only room for two of your party, but, perhaps, we can manage to make up a bed for the young gentleman on the sofa." This was done, and in the morning it was found that the youth who slept on the "shakedown" was the heir of the crown of England, while the boy who occupied the bed meant for the Prince was only Master —, travelling with his father.—*Bath Chronicle*.

A PRESENT TO ROYALTY.—Some time ago a lady of Dunfermline sent a present to her Majesty—a cushion embroidered with needlework and marine shells. The shells were of the smallest description—as minute as the oval hemispheres shelled from canary seed, and elaborately wrought up into flowers and other natural figures. It was altogether a tasteful and artistic piece of finger-work. After a very long interval, a letter arrived from London graciously acknowledging the receipt, and requesting another specimen of Miss M.—'s needlework.—*Fife Herald*.

THE HIBERNIAN BANK.—A curious sign of the times occurred the other day in a contest for a directorship in the board of the Hibernian Bank, Dublin—an eminently Roman Catholic establishment. The candidates were Mr. William Ford, the town-clerk of the Corporation, and a gentleman of some note in local politics, and a Mr. John Rafferty, whose name is quite unknown out of trading circles. The former, the intimate personal friend of the late Daniel O'Connell, and supported, it is said, by the influence of Archbishop Cullen, was defeated by a majority of 136 votes, his unknown opponent winning by nearly two to one.

INCREASE OF THE LIVERPOOL MAGISTRACY.—A communication has been received from the Home Office that Sir George Grey, at the request of the Corporation, has appointed six magistrates for the borough of Liverpool, viz.:—Mr. J. A. Tobin, Mr. John A. Tinné, Mr. Edmund Heath, Mr. James R. Jeffery, Mr. Richard Sheil, and Mr. Thomas Earle. Of these gentlemen the three first named are Conservatives, and the other three Liberals.

THE FUNERAL OF MR. HUGH MILLER took place on Tuesday, says the *Scotsman*, and both as to the attendance of mourners, and the concourse of the spectators, was one of the largest and most remarkable that has ever been witnessed in Edinburgh. The hearse was followed by thirteen mourning-carriages, and nineteen other carriages. Along all the streets, from the Register Office to the Grange Cemetery, the shops were very generally closed at the request of the magistrates; and the pavements along the North and South Bridges and Nicholson-street were lined by large numbers of persons.

GREAT SNOWSTORM ON THE YORKSHIRE MOORS.—The moors of Yorkshire were last week visited by one of the most severe storms of wind and snow experienced in that locality for a very long period. The storm set in on Christmas night with severe frost and a heavy downfall of snow. In the neighbourhood of Skipton its effects have been very disastrous, and they have been experienced with more or less severity throughout the whole of the Craven district, in which the farmers have sustained serious losses. The high prevailing winds drove the snow like an avalanche before it, and the sheep have had to be dug from drifts three and four yards in depth. One farmer, who had nearly 500 sheep out, has scarcely recovered a tithe of them alive; on Conistone Moor 30 sheep were taken out dead from one of the drifts; on Embay Moor nine were found huddled together in a similar hole; on Cracoe Fell a large number were either smothered in the snowdrifts or frozen to death; indeed, throughout the whole neighbourhood similar disastrous losses have been experienced by the farmers.

ROBBERY AT THE BANK AT GODALMING.—A daring and extensive robbery was committed at the banking-house of Messrs. Mellish and Kuns, in the town of Godalming, between midnight and daybreak on Wednesday last. The watch dogs gave no alarm, and those placed to take care of the bank were not disturbed, though considerable force must have been used to break open the iron safes containing the cash and securities. The burglars got hold of £290 in silver, a small sum in Bank of England notes, and some valuable securities. Fortunately the iron safe containing gold and Bank of England notes to a very large amount—upwards of £15,000—resisted their efforts; and it is supposed that, from being disturbed, they desisted, carrying off merely the silver money and the notes.

A CONVICTED FELON'S PROPERTY.—In the year 1850 a man named Martin Maguire was convicted at the York Assizes for receiving stolen property, and sentenced to fourteen years' transportation. At the time of his conviction he had left at the house of a James Moore, a publican, of Liverpool, the sum of £300, and also a bank book, which represented £64 5s. 6d. as due to him in the Liverpool Savings Bank, in Bold-street, deposited in the name of his wife. While Maguire was absent from England, at the penal settlement in Bermuda, the wife of Moore went to the Savings Bank and produced a letter from Maguire, authorising her to withdraw the money from the bank. On Maguire obtaining a "ticket of leave" he returned to Liverpool, and went to draw the money, but it was found that it had been drawn by Mrs. Moore. Mary Ann Moore was brought up at the Police Court, Liverpool, last week, charged with forging the order by which she obtained the money. The above facts having been proved, the counsel for the prisoner took a legal objection. He contended that, as Maguire was a convicted felon at liberty, during good behaviour, by virtue of a ticket of leave, all property which he possessed at the time of his conviction belonged to the Crown, and it was not Maguire that should be the prosecutor, but Government. If the Crown had failed, up to the present time, to take possession of the felon's effects, it might still do so, and sue Mrs. Moore for the sum she had obtained. If that objection was overruled, he should apply for a remand, to show that Mr. Moore had received a letter from Maguire, while confined in York Castle, appointing the former the sole manager of his effects. The case was ultimately remanded for further examination.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE reasons why our Admiral has bombarded Canton seem to be plain and satisfactory, if a system of regular and recognised social usages is to be kept up between a civilised and a semi-barbarian Power. Insult to our flag, outrage to our officials, these are surely justification for whatever Admiral Seymour has done. He appears to have acted with much forbearance, to have offered the Chinese authorities every opportunity of making reparation, and to have waited unusually long in order to afford them time for consideration. Then he acted as it is necessary to act with regard to the Oriental, who is without a moral sense, and who deems that conciliation and concession imply inability to use the strong arm. He struck a series of severe blows. This is all that we know at present. Ill feeling had been generating for some time between the Chinese and the English and Americans, and some kind of disturbance had been expected; but the Chinese, perhaps, hardly expected that we should show ourselves so much in earnest. The Manchester organs, of course, are clamorous; and, in the same papers in which the tools of the "Greek houses" declare that the very existence of Turkey is a crime, the English Admiral is abused for his "violence" towards these Chinese barbarians.

The foreign prints are full of the Prusso-Helvetian difficulty, and of the warlike preparations on each side, but it is evident that terms of a reasonable kind will be forced upon the antagonists by the suasion of more powerful neighbours. The King will be asked to renounce his claim, and the Republic to liberate her prisoners, and some loose ends will be left by the skilful artists in diplomacy, so that, though there is a paction now, there will always be points on which fresh disputes may arise. In one of the old plays a gallant declares that he should consider his fencing-master a very ignorant something or other if he had not taught his pupil how to run a man through without killing him. We should consider a diplomat something of the same kind if he could not settle a dispute without injuring the vitality of the real quarrel.

As usual before the meeting of Parliament, all sorts of rumours touching political changes are flying about. The Peelites are said, with probability, to be weary of their present anomalous position; and being, moreover, gentlemen, and possessing some notions of statesmanship, they object to being again used by the Manchester faction against the interests of the country. Report varies as to their intentions. It was said that Mr. Gladstone had coalesced with Lord Derby, which nobody believed; and it was also said that Lord Parnham, for a domestic reason, wished to retire, and that Mr. Sidney Herbert had been offered the War-office. This sounded more probable. Other changes have been talked of, as Lord Granville succeeding Lord Carlisle in Ireland, and taking Sir Robert Peel as Irish Secretary; while the present amiable Lord Lieutenant should take the Presidency of the Council. Lord John Russell's adhesion to the Cabinet has also been affirmed. But time alone can resolve all these awful and agitating problems; and we can only, at the opening of a new year, express a fervent hope that whatever chair in whatever office Noodle or Doodle may fill, to the exclusion of Coodle and Foodle, England may be permitted to remain a nation, if only to provide for the welfare of Noodles and Foodles yet unborn.

The French press—at least the lighter portion of it—is permitted to amuse itself with allusions to recent differences of opinion between England and France, and is "encouraged" to lay the blame of any possible rupture upon the London journals. A favourite expression of this idea is a picture of the English and French soldier arm-in-arm, or united like the Siamese twins, and defying the efforts of a remarkably malicious-looking man—supposed to typify the editor of the *Times*—who is rabidly seeking to separate them. Englishmen, who know the real state of the case between the countries, can well afford the pleasure of joining in the laugh; and, so long as French censorship simply persecutes us with caricatures we shall cheerfully submit, in a way we found it impossible to do when graver interference was attempted. The Russian railways also afford subject to the French satirists, and some of the hits are very fair. For instance, the traveller on a Russian line is requested, at a particular station, to hand over his passport to be examined. "Shall we stop here long?" he asks. "No, Monsieur; the necessary formalities will not occupy more than three weeks."

It may be well that the popular mind should clearly understand that, according to Mr. Jelinger Symons, the moon enters the earth's new year with her character decidedly modified. He returns to the anti-rotation theory, and has now completely convinced himself and friends that the moon does not rotate, and he states the result of certain experiments confirmatory of his view. We think it is *Ananias*, in the "Alchemist," who, in order to check the extravagance of the magician, declares he has heard that a scientific man at Leyden had manufactured the philosopher's stone with an egg-shell and some pin-dust. Mr. Symons has steadied the moon with a pin, a ball, and some cardboard. To speak seriously, however, and without entering into the question itself, which appears to be one of terms rather than of facts, Mr. Symons' defends his views with a calmness and decorum of language which has been by no means imitated by his assailants. It does not always follow that the most quiet reasoner is right, but assuredly in the discussion of a philosophical question the gentler the language and tone of the antagonists the better.

The Thwaites Parliament is virtually crushed by its framer, Sir Benjamin Hall. The sewerage plan is handed over to three scientific men, engineers, who may not only deal with it as they please, but may submit another plan, and then the opinion of Parliament will be taken upon their report. This was the result which everyone foresaw from the moment that the respectable but narrow-minded and jealous tradesmen elected to the Board began to fuss and to wrangle. They were, like Verges, "a little o'er parted." Now that they are on the point of being got rid of, they are quarrelling outright, and one of the most intelligent members of the Board apprised his colleagues that it was under the control of a "brutish and tyrannical majority," who insulted Sir Benjamin Hall. There is no need for hard words—the Board is composed of a class of men to whom no large question should be confided, but who are doubtless very noisily useful in their localities. Considering with what class of members of Parliament the metropolis is content to put up, it is not marvellous that it should have selected such a Board for taking charge of its internal welfare; but that the ablest of the three able men among the metropolitan members should not have foreseen what the inferior college would be is somewhat more surprising.

ROYALTY IN DANGER.—The King of Piedmont, while on a sporting excursion a few days ago, having become separated from his suite, was stopped by a party of robbers who demanded his purse. "But I am the King," was the Royal reply; to which the robbers answered, "We know that very well, and it is precisely for you that we were watching here." The word being solitary, and the suite at a distance, his Majesty was obliged to yield compliance, and held out to the robbers a purse, containing twenty gold napoleons, which was received with marks of the greatest respect.—*Lurin Paper.*

NATIONAL SPORTS.

THE advent of a new year, big with anticipation of English and American rivalry over the race-course, finds Blink Bonny a steady favourite for the Derby; Loyola some four points behind her; and Saunterer, as neat and dangerous-looking a little horse as John Osborne ever stripped, hardly even mentioned. Although there will be upwards of a hand between them in height, we should take the chance of the little black for choice.

During 1856 we find, from the *Sporting Review* (which opens the year with a picture and biography of Marlow the jockey), that 1630 horses started at the 138 "legitimate" meetings in the United Kingdom. Of these, seven (we blush to record the fact) were yearlings, 526 two-year-olds, 455 three-year-olds, and 642 four-year-olds and upwards. These figures show a great increase in the two-year-olds, which not long since barely averaged 300 a season. In the course of the next season we shall have a sight of the Teddington and Augur two-year-olds. Lord Glasgow has one or two of the former, which are now, along with the rest of his string, at his new trainer's, Alick Taylor, of Fyfield, who tutored their game little sire throughout his splendid career. Lord Glasgow has had twelve or thirteen trainers since James Croft (in whose stables John and William Scott were brought up) died, eight-and-twenty years ago; but neither training nor high breeding seems to put him in luck. The forfeit-list for 1854-56, in which a member of the Jockey Club figures for £285, amounts to £11,024, and its ban attaches to some eight hundred horses. The Dutchman's brother, Vanderdecken, who has been displaced after a very short reign, at Burleigh, by Knight of St. George, is for sale; and two West Australian yearlings will come to the hammer at York on Tuesday. "Mr. F. Robinson" has purchased the 500-guinea Maid of Saragossa filly, and has christened her Heroine. Among the jockeys, we find that in 1856 Fordham had no less than 353 mounts, of which 107 were successful and three dead heats. Wells comes nearest to him, with fifty-six wins and five dead heats out of 252; Quinton third, with twenty-nine wins out of 212; and Nat fourth, with forty-three, and a dead heat, out of 191.

The meets were only made null and void for one week before Christmas, and, as the recent frost has not lasted longer, the hunting men have gone on without much let or hindrance, but still "no scent" is the general complaint.

In spite of this peculiarity of the season, Mr. Selby's hounds have lately had a rare thing, nearly twelve miles without a check, and so have Mr. Assheton Smith's, as well as the Heythrop and three or four others. Mr. Thompson's have also had a great run, which only lacked a kill to make it perfection. The meet was at Chardon-common, and the fox at once faced the open, taking a line that has not been run over for many years, by Marsh Gibbon, Ludgershall, and Piddington, to the top of Muswell-hill, which was reached in forty-five minutes, when only three heavy weights and three light weights were with the hounds. Here the horse of one of the former declined, and his two companions had to take to the road before the hounds reached Arncliffe Wood, through which their fox flew as straight as an arrow, and finally ran them out of scent near Merton village. The sixteen miles were done in an hour and twenty minutes without a check, or the semblance of a check, and the three light weights lived to the end. We fancy that this must be called the run of the season so far.

A correspondent of a leading sporting journal speaks in raptures of the doings of the Roman foxhounds—how they found their first fox in a cane plantation, and ran him to ground; how they tried the thick grass under banks for another, and ran into him in a quarter of an hour, under a warm, blue sky, "the Tiber flowing below on one side, with the dome of St. Peter's on the other, and the snow-clad pink tops of the Apennines filling up the distance;" and how the late master of the Bedale and the master of the Kildare, though only mounted on Roman horses, beat all the Italians on their English ones. On the day before Christmas-day one of the best wolf runs of the season came off in France, the felon living before the hounds for two hours four minutes, and being only run into when he was crossing the eighth commune.

The coursing fixtures are at present—Holt, on Wednesday; Barton-on-Humber, on Wednesday and Thursday; Baldoek (open), on these two days and Friday; the Caledonian, on Thursday; and Diamor (Meath), on Thursday and Friday; and it is to be hoped that some fresh saplings will be brought out to disturb the monopoly of the "Bs" and the "Rs," which have played such havoc with their opponents so far.

Lillywhite's work on cricket progresses, and correct copies of scores of old matches, and information as to the "alterations of the laws," "size of stumps," &c., from time to time, will be very acceptable to its compiler. John Lillywhite is the premier of the batsmen for the 1856 season, and Caffyn and Caesar follow him in order.

SPANISH BANDITS.—The bandits, who for the last four years have been setting the laws at defiance, have just committed a fresh outrage which has thrown the town of Burgos and its neighbourhood into complete consternation. On the 18th a detachment of the Civil Guard, commanded by Captain Góngora, arrived at Cubillo-la-Cesar in pursuit of Hierros, Villalain, and three other bandits, concealed in a house in that place; and at the moment when the guard was passing Villalain himself opened the door and discharged his blunderbuss, by which the captain was killed on the spot, and several of his men wounded. A contest then took place between the bandits and the remainder of the guard, during which one of the former was killed. The others took to flight. The Alcalde de Cubillo and the owner of the house in which the bandits were concealed have been arrested. Very serious charges are laid against the former. He is accused of having given billets to some of the Civil Guard for the very house in which the bandits were concealed, in order to place them in the power of the latter; but the arrival of Captain Góngora prevented this scheme being carried into execution.—*Letter from Madrid, Dec. 20.*

THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH AND THE SWISS.—It may not be uninteresting to remind the public that, after 1815, the Queen Hortense bought the Château d'Arenenberg, near the Lake of Constance, to which the present Emperor of the French paid frequent visits. About this period Louis Napoleon made himself a Swiss citizen, and was named Captain of the Bernese artillery, and later a Major. He frequently did camp duty at Thun, and was very popular among the Swiss. After Louis Napoleon paid from necessity a brief visit to America, he again returned to the château of his mother in Switzerland. Soon after, it will be remembered, Louis Philippe demanded his expulsion, and Guizot threatened to blockade the cantons. It was on this occasion that the Swiss bravely defended their principles; but, to prevent bringing a calamity on his adopted country, he left Arenenberg for England. A great number of the Swiss citizens now in office are precisely the same men who defended in former days the Swiss citizenship of the present Emperor of the French; and these are the men which the semi-official journal, the *Constitutionnel*, the other day thought proper to designate as "demagogues."—*Correspondent of the Morning Post.*

CURIOUS EXISTENCE OF ARSENIC.—The recent cases of Palmer and Dove have given an impetus to toxicological researches, not only in England, but abroad. Professor Otto, of Brunswick, a chemist, who, for many years past, has made the subject of poisons his especial study, contributes, in a recent number of a German philosophical journal, some new and curious particulars, not only in relation to strychnia, but to poisons generally. He has made a discovery in relation to the poison arsenic which is very interesting. Orfila at one time thought he had satisfactorily proved that arsenic was a normal constituent of the bones of man—an opinion which, if confirmed, would have gone far to render inoperative chemical testimony in relation to the unfair or criminal presence of that body. Orfila subsequently altered that opinion, but recent chemical investigators have demonstrated the presence of arsenic in sources where it would have been little suspected. Amongst others that metal has been proved to exist invariably in the ochreous deposits which certain varieties of natural water throw down. Cognisant of this fact, Professor Otto thought of examining for arsenic the crust which had formed on the inside of his tea-kettle, and had not the slightest difficulty, by the application of Marsh's test, in demonstrating the presence of arsenic. The water used in London deposits a large amount of crust on the inside of tea-kettles. That crust holds a variable portion of oxide of iron, and probably, if subjected to chemical tests, will be found to contain arsenic.

GAMBLING COMPANIES.—The late farmers of the gaming-tables at Wiesbaden and Ems met on the 16th ult. at the former place, and, in the presence of the Government Commissioner, sold their rights, privileges, furniture, and appurtenances in the "Kur" buildings at both places to a new joint-stock company, for the sum of 1,200,000 florins in cash. The number of shares in all amount to 7000 of 100 florins each. Of these, 5000 have been taken up by the speculators, and 2000 have been held in reserve, to be disposed of, according to the statutes, at a general meeting of shareholders. Meantime, their Highnesses of Nassau and Baden divide the honours (with some of the profits) of being the most extensive encouragers of gambling in Europe.

FASHIONS FOR JANUARY.

THE group of figures which we this day present to our readers affords a specimen of morning, of evening, and of walking dress. The elegant morning dress consists of a skirt formed of alternate breadths of black, and of imperial blue corded silk, arranged in vandykes the entire length of the skirt. The front breadth is of the blue silk, having the point at the waist; the next breadth is of black, having the point downwards, and so on alternately. Where the breadths join, and likewise running upwards and downwards from the point of each vandyke, appears a chenille trimming. We may observe that, in some instances, the effect thus produced is arrived at differently. When expense is no object this sort of skirt is formed completely of black silk, and has the vandykes of coloured silk laid over it. Bugle trimming is sometimes used instead of the chenille. The jacket worn with this dress is of black velvet cut in vandykes, and elaborately trimmed with gimp, lace, and bugles. The trimming passes across the bust in the form of a cape; but, at the back, represents braces with rows of lace and gimp between them. The costume is completed by very large sleeves of clear muslin, with worked wristbands; an embroidered muslin collar; and a cap of white blonde trimmed with several rows of extremely narrow black velvet. These rows of velvet form a *fanchon* at the top of the head, surrounded by narrow black lace. The cap is otherwise ornamented by bows of rose-coloured sarcenet ribbon placed at the sides and at the back of the head.

The walking dress is of brown taffetas with four flounces, each flounce being inwoven with black velvet, the stamp of which represents a graceful fall of black lace, headed by a row of black velvet. The black velvet mantle is trimmed with rich fringe and jet beads, the fulness being drawn in at the waist behind with two tassels. The fringe passes in the form of a cape across the shoulders, descending to a point behind. This mantle has long hanging sleeves, and is ornamented with tassels down the front. A collar of Valenciennes lace and black lace turns over at the neck, and sleeves to correspond are fastened at the wrist with blue ribbon. The bonnet represented is of white blonde and blue terry velvet, and is ornamented with blue feathers. It has a full cap of white blonde with a wreath of blue flowers and fall of black lace across the forehead.

The evening dress consists of white crape, and has three flounces cut in scallops, and edged with blonde and a trimming of peach-coloured satin ribbon. Bows and ends of the ribbon are placed at each bend of the scallop. The corsage is made to correspond, having capes edged with the peach-coloured satin ribbon, and *barbes* hanging from the waist. A wreath of peach-coloured flowers and ribbon with a mixture of green leaves.

Doubtless as the season advances various novelties will be introduced, but nothing we apprehend that can oppose the style we have described, or render these dresses *rococo*. Would that ladies—especially those residing in the country, or who send their orders to London from the Colonies or from foreign countries—could be persuaded to order some of their dresses at once, instead of waiting till the rush of the "season"! By thus doing they would lighten that pressure among the workwomen which those who really occasion it are generally the first to deplore. Ladies can calculate, to some extent at any rate, what dresses they will require for any given period; and if they would give their orders somewhat in advance they would render a double service to their poorer sisters, by supplying them with work when it is wanted, and removing the temptations to overwork which must result when there is more work on hand than there can be found fingers to execute, save at the cost of rest, health, and life.

Among other novelties we must enumerate a mantle of light brown cloth, trimmed with velvet and buttons of a darker shade; and several velvet mantles of a particularly elegant shape, not quite so large as that depicted in our engraving, but, like it, having graceful, hanging sleeves.

There is a very stylish black velvet bonnet, trimmed with blue velvet and white blonde, and having a blue feather put in next the face and turned back; a drooping feather hangs at the side.

A violet velvet bonnet is trimmed with feathers and blonde, and has hanging lappets of blonde.

A green bonnet is trimmed with feathers and a mixture of black and white lace. Red berries and leaves next the face, and a fall of black lace across the forehead.

Some very attractive head-dresses have been recently produced. One of them is composed of a fine but broad plait of imperial blue velvet, studded with large gold stars, which passes across the head, and appears fastened at the nape of the neck by gold pins headed with stars and a large thick tie of the plaited velvet. A similar head-dress of maroon velvet is equally effective.

A wreath of scarlet geraniums and jasmine is very full behind, so as nearly to cover the back of the head.

A head-dress of green leaves and red berries is made in a similar style; and we may observe that red and green form a favourite mixture this winter. There is a head-dress of blue convolvulus and silver wheat-ears.

Velvet dresses are much in vogue just now, the skirts being made very full and long. They are generally provided with a high and a low body. Point lace should be worn with coloured velvets, but black velvet dresses usually have jackets and low bodies, richly trimmed with black lace and bugles.

Black lace jackets continue to be much liked for friendly dinner dress. They are, indeed, particularly convenient, as they are adapted to be worn with any silk dress. One of these jackets is composed of rows of insertion black lace edged with narrow lace, and joined together at intervals to form the shape.

Some beautiful articles of *lingerie* have lately been produced. Sleeves for morning wear are sometimes made large and plain, confined only with a band at the wrist; and sometimes they have two puffs, with a gauntlet cuff turned back, and a ribbon run through it to correspond with that worn at the neck. The morning collars are generally of embroidered muslin, with or without a trimming of Valenciennes lace.

[For our information we are indebted to the courtesy of Madame EINSTEIN DE VY, 73, Grosvenor-street, Grosvenor-square.]

DANGER OF STREET CROSSINGS IN LONDON.—We often hear that London is growing inconveniently large and populous. This we feel by the distances to be traversed in going to see persons in remote suburbs; but even in the heart of London we are made sensible of its inconvenient populousness. Any one who examines for a quarter of an hour the principal crossings, such as at the Regent-circus, must be struck with the great inconvenience to which passengers are subjected, especially in sloppy weather—a group waiting at the side until the road seems clear, then making a dash across at the risk of a slip and a fall, while a cab or carriage drives pelting past utterly regardless of the safety or cleanliness of the foot-passengers. Even grown men with firm legs may miss the proper moment in a crowded afternoon, and be splattered from head to foot by a conveyance going past their nose, or shaving their back. How much more a timid woman with a litter of children! Then what exclamations—"Good God, Sally, you will be run over!" "Bob will get himself killed some day!" "That was a narrow escape!" says one. "That was a close shave!" says another. Such are the expressions on the occasion of a cattle-show or a public gathering of any description which causes the streets to be more than usually crowded. Now, it appears to us that all this might be very easily avoided by the simplest clock mechanism conspicuous at the principal crossings causing a tin plate to revolve every minute; the side painted red might be a signal for vehicles to stop and passengers to proceed, blue for passengers to stop and vehicles to proceed. We recommend this to our police authorities. The evil exists, and we shall be happy to learn if a better plan can be proposed by any member of the Society of Arts.

SUDDEN DEATH OF ROMANOFF MENSCHIKOFF, THE RUSSIAN PILOT.—At the commencement of hostilities with Russia, in 1854, an old Finland fisherman, named Romanoff Menschikoff, underwent impressment into the English naval service, and served on board the *Hecia*, Capt. Hall. The old man's experience in the navigation of the Baltic Sea was of great assistance in the operations of our fleet in those waters, and on the return of the *Hecia* to Portsmouth the Board of Admiralty at once made provision for his future comfort, and immediately issued an order for his admission into Greenwich Hospital. This order was carried out, and instructions were issued that he was to be treated with every kindness and consideration—an instruction the more necessary from the fact that he was scarcely able to speak one word of English. He, however, managed to master sufficient of our language to make known his wants, and during his sojourn in the establishment, extending over a period of nearly two years, he became as it were the favourite child of a family. On Monday, however, having been previously ill, he dropped down at his cabin door and suddenly expired, at the good old age of 86.

SPIRITOUS CROWN PIECES.—There are at present in circulation a considerable number of counterfeit crown pieces, in imitation of those of George IV., dated 1822. They are very cleverly executed, and will escape detection unless minutely examined, being electrotyped; but they are much lighter than the genuine coin.



FASHIONS FOR JANUARY, 1857.—(SEE PRECEDING PAGE.)

THE STAMFORD AND ESSENDINE RAILWAY.

This railway was opened for public traffic on the 1st November. It forms a junction with the Great Northern main line at Essendine, which is distant nearly twelve miles north of Peterborough; and by means of this communication the fine old town of Stamford is brought within about two hours of the metropolis. The works, which are constructed for a double line of rails, were commenced about two years ago, under the auspices of the Marquis of Exeter, the promoter and principal proprietor of the line.

We engrave (from a drawing by Mr. W. Hurst, jun.) a picturesque view of the Stamford Station, as seen from the bridge at the foot of St. Mary's Hill. It is a handsome stone building of Elizabethan character, and consists of a booking-hall, with offices and residence for station-master. The principal front includes two peaked wings, having ornamented gables, and a central projection with perforated parapet, carrying a shield in sunk panel, containing the arms of Stamford, surmounted with a coronet, and relieved by foliated scrolls and ribbon, bearing the name of the railway and the date of its construction.

The front elevation is pierced by mullioned windows of varied dimensions, after Burghley House, and bisected for its entire length

with an overhanging screen or verandah, ten feet in width, which is carried upon brackets of appropriate design, and affords effective shelter for passengers alighting at the door of the booking-hall.

This hall, which measures 27 feet by 32 feet 6 inches, is lofty and of peculiar design—the roof being carried upon cambered timber beams, set in pairs, and springing from neatly-carved corbels firmly grafted in the walls. It is lighted principally from the ceiling, which is partitioned in recessed compartments, having pendent ornaments at the intersections of the panels.

A gallery, supported on tastefully-sculptured brackets, runs round the building, and is faced with elegant cast-iron railing; from which, at the angles, rise ornamented columns with globular gas glasses at their tops.

This gallery leads, on the one hand, to the directors' room and offices; and on the opposite side are ranged the living-rooms and other apartments of the station clerk.

On the ground-floor, opposite the entrance, and looking over the passenger platform behind, is the booking-office; and on each side the hall are placed the first-class waiting-rooms, parcels and other offices; while the area is provided with movable seats for second and third class passengers.

At the south-east angle of the building is a massive stone tower, in which, on the ground-floor, are the porters' and lamp rooms, &c.; and above are "stores," well protected by a never-failing tank of water on the roof, which is surrounded by an open parapet, with projecting angles, carved finials, and columnar chimney-stack.

At the back of and adjoining the booking-hall is the passenger platform, covered by a light wrought-iron trellised roof of timber and glass. The up and down lines of railway are on either side the platform, and the whole is illuminated by lanterns hanging from the tiers of the iron roof, and by wall-lamps mounted in cast-iron brackets of a neat and novel character.

The station is approached through light wrought-iron gates, hung on posts of pierced castings, harmonising with the principal elevation of the booking-hall and offices before described.

The goods warehouse, granary, and other buildings common to terminal stations are plain and neat in design, and the arrangements generally are well compacted and complete. The whole of the works were constructed by the late Mr. Thomas Hayton, the well-known contractor on the London and North-Western Railway, from designs and under the superintendence of Mr. William Hurst, the Company's engineer.



THE STAMFORD AND ESSENDINE RAILWAY: THE STAMFORD STATION.



MEMORIAL WINDOW, RECENTLY ERECTED IN ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, STAMFORD.

PAINTED WINDOWS IN ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, STAMFORD.

STAMFORD is a borough of great antiquity. It was one of the five great cities of the Danish kingdom, and became the seat of four monasteries (the remains of one of which, founded several ages prior to the making of the Domesday Record, still exist), and at one period contained

fifteen parish churches. These are now reduced to six, of which St. John's is the fifth that has undergone repair and restoration. It consists of a handsome nave, north and south aisles, and a chancel. The high and ugly pews have been removed, and handsome seats of solid English oak have been substituted. The tower arch, for many years closed, has been thrown open. The church is enriched by the insertion of two painted glass windows of great beauty and very appropriate design; the subject of the eastern window being the Nativity, and of the western the Entombment and Resurrection of Christ. The former was undertaken on the responsibility of the Rector, the Rev. D. E. Jones; and the latter (of which we present an Engraving) is a memorial window by R. N. Newcomb, Esq., in remembrance of his late uncle. This splendid and costly work, and also the east window, were executed by Mr. Oliphant, of Ulster-place, Regent's Park, London. The late Mr. Newcomb presented an exemplary instance of success in provincial journalism. He was for several years sole proprietor of the *Stamford Mercury*, and for more than thirty years the editor of that journal, by which he amassed a large fortune. He took an active part in local government, and served the office of Mayor of Stamford in 1847; and he had been a Justice of the Peace for the borough from the passing of the Municipal Act. The *Stamford Mercury* says:—

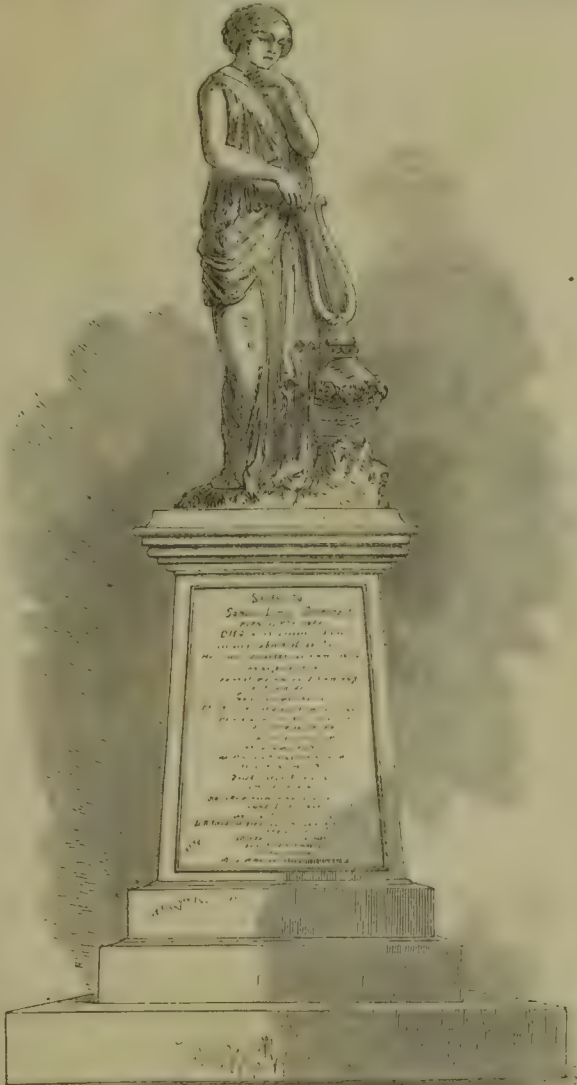
The west window represents the glorious conclusion, as the east window does the commencement, of our Lord's course on earth. The principal subject here occupying the three centre openings is the "Resurrection," the triumphant figure of the Redeemer rising from the tomb, vested in a regal robe typical of Christ's kingdom, and surrounded by thorns figuratively illustrating His mortal agony on the Cross; a group of Roman soldiers dispersed in amazement and terror, and an angel seated on the removed stone, looking on. Parallel with this, and underneath it, the Entombment. One of the side openings contains a group of the Crucifixion; the other has the Baptism of St. John—a subject chosen as representing at once the commencement of our Lord's ministry, and the most important incident in the life of John the Baptist, to whom the church is dedicated. The fine tracing of this window is filled with a choir

of worshipping angels, and with figures of the four Evangelists; and beneath the principal subject is inscribed the text and interpretation of the picture, "Now is Christ risen from the dead and become the first fruits of them that slept; for since by man came death by man came also the resurrection of the dead." The east window thus commemorates the dawn of Redemption—the west, its victorious and perfect consummation. At the bottom of the memorial window is inscribed, "In affectionate remembrance of Richard Newcomb, Esq., of the Rock, Stamford, and a Patron of this living. Ob. March 26, 1851, æt. 68."

NOOKS AND CORNERS OF OLD ENGLAND.

REMAINS OF THE ANCIENT CHAPEL IN THE ISLE OF DOGS

In the old maps of the Thames a solitary group of houses in the centre of this island is marked the Chapel-house, so called in consequence of a hermitage or chapel having formerly stood here. It has been generally supposed that all trace of this lonely religious establishment had perished; indeed, the houses now placed here present so much the appearance of modern dilapidation that, although aware of the interest of the site, we have several times passed it without considering it worth while to make a minute examination. Chancing to be the other day upon the island, a Thames fisherman pointing to the Chapel-house



MONUMENT RECENTLY ERECTED IN THE NORWOOD CEMETERY, TO THE MEMORY OF MR. LAMAN BLANCHARD.

said, "But, master, have you seen King John's Castle over yonder? Well, if it cannot be King John's Castle, it's Queen Elizabeth's Palace, and Oliver Cromwell and King Charles kept their hounds there." Upon this information we made the best of our way along a newly-made road to the Chapel-house. On reaching the place, which was in a sad condition, we soon found undoubted traces of a building of considerable antiquity—composed of chalk, large pieces of flint, and here and there long tiles, something like those of Roman manufacture worked into the walls of St. Albans Abbey and elsewhere. In parts this wall, of old materials, is of considerable thickness, and the modern dwellings have evidently been fitted to the portions of the ancient building which was remaining about half a century ago.

MONUMENT TO LAMAN BLANCHARD.

THIS tasteful tribute to the genius and private worth of Laman Blanchard has just been placed in Norwood Cemetery, where his remains rest. The pedestal bears the following elegantly-written inscription:—

Sacred to
SAMUEL LAMAN BLANCHARD.
Born 15th May, 1804;
Died the 15th February, 1845.
His life was devoted to the
Honourable industry of a man of letters.
He instructed and assisted many;
He pleased all.
His abilities were various;
As his toils were incessant;
And writings
Which have assisted social progress
And disseminated cheerfulness
Will preserve his memory.

His heart was gentle,
His manners winning and sociable
His integrity unassailable
The latter days of a career
Brief and laborious
Were embittered by the loss of his wife,
ANNE BLANCHARD.
Who died December 16th, 1841.
For 22 years his beloved partner and comfort
They are here,
After two months' separation
Reunited in the dust,
In the sure hope
Of an eternal union in th



REMAINS OF THE OLD CHAPEL IN THE ISLE OF DOGS.



CHARLTON HOUSE, WILTS, THE SEAT OF THE EARL OF SUFFOLK.
(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

CHARLTON HOUSE, WILTS.

CHARLTON, the seat of the Earl of Suffolk, has lately been the scene of a remarkable picture-robbery, which has already been referred to in the present volume of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS. (See pages 231, 475, where two of the stolen pictures are engraved, in the hope of aiding the detection of the thieves.) The mansion is an interesting specimen of Jacobean architecture, situated near Malmesbury, in Wiltshire; though it is not to be ranked with the palaces of Longleat, Wilton House, and Longford Castle, in the same county. Mr. Britton, the octogenarian topographer of Wiltshire, in his artistic and piquant "Autobiography" now in course of publication, characterises Charlton House as "a fine and vigorous offshoot" from the mansions of the Tudor age, and serving to "mark a novelty in architectural design and advancement. Its windows (continues our venerable antiquarian illustrator) are larger and more commanding, its chimney shafts and open garrets are more decorated, and the columnar parts and interior finishings have more decided features of Italian architecture. It has no castellated feature, but is truly domestic, and gives intimation of home security, peace, and luxury. Commenced by Sir Henry Knyvett, in the time of King James I., it was laid out to bound the four sides of a large quadrangle, and intended to class, if not vie, with princely Longleat, in the southern portion of the county. But the finances of the proprietor were not commensurate with his ambition, and he only raised the shell and parts of the edifice, leaving his successors to continue or finish the building. The mansion extends over an area of 180 feet from north to south, by 123 in the opposite direction. The greater portion appears to have been raised from the designs of Matthew Brettingham for the Earl of Suffolk, who died in 1779. The hall, gallery, staircase, and many of the apartments are adorned with family and other portraits; also with historical pictures, and similar evidences of the taste and wealth of the collectors. The fifteenth Earl, who died in 1820, at the age of eighty-one, was very desirous of making Charlton House vie with the more fashionable and popular seats in the southern part of the county, and expended much money and devoted much zeal to attain these objects. When I met him at Charlton in 1802 he was preparing to cover in the central court, make a noble staircase and gallery, and concentrate his pictures in these apartments. An account of some of these is given in my "Architectural Antiquities;" but I would refer the lover of art to Dr. Waagen's "Treasures of Art in Great Britain," vol. iii., p. 51, for an interesting commentary on the Suffolk pictures. The reader will find notices of some of the portraits in the "Beauties of Wiltshire." A more ample and corrected account will be found in the third volume of the "Wiltshire Magazine," from the pen of the Rev. W. H. E. McKnight, whose residence in the house, as tutor to some of the family, enabled him to become familiar with the pictures, the place, and the personal annals.

The accompanying View has been reduced from a drawing by De Cort, in Mr. Britton's interesting Wiltshire collection.

THE ANTI-INCOME-TAX AGITATION.

THE agitation against the continuance of the Income-tax of 10d. in the pound still continues to make progress. Meetings have been held during the last week at Bath, Gloucester, Dorchester, Greenwich, and various other places, and resolutions passed in condemnation of the tax at its present rate.

At the Gloucester meeting, which was held on Monday last, Mr. S. Bowly and Mr. T. M. Sturge having spoken in favour of the resolutions which condemned the tax as unjust in its application, oppressive in its execution, vexatious in its assessments, and demoralising in its tendency, Admiral Sir M. F. E. Berkeley, M.P., came forward to say a few words in opposition to the resolutions. After alluding to the statement that Government intended to take advantage of some twenty-eight days having elapsed over the financial year, before peace was concluded, to impose the increased war-tax for another year, which he for one did not believe, he proceeded to discuss the arguments which had been advanced in favour of abolishing the tax altogether.

"Mr. Bowly, in proposing the resolution, told you to abolish the tax at once—to do away with it altogether (A voice: 'That's what we want'). I should be very glad to see it (A voice: 'And we must have it'). Mr. Bowly told you to abolish it, and in the same breath to reduce your expenditure to meet your income. It is very well to say that now, but, unfortunately, we have spent the money. I would ask this assembly whether it would be willing to take England from her proud position—whether it is prepared to take down from her high position the country to which it belongs? We stand foremost by our wealth, intelligence, courage, love of freedom, and Christian charity in the most comprehensive sense of the term—we stand forth the champion of the world against slavery, despotism, and the strong overpowering the weak (Loud cheers). Will you, then, consent to take that advice which will remove you from that high pedestal, and place you in the lowest scale of nations (Hear, hear)? It is well to say we are not to keep up an army, that we do not want a navy—but where would you be without them? If you reduce your army and navy—mind, I do not wish you to keep up a useless expenditure—but, if you reduce your forces to that low point that you cannot upon any sudden emergency bring into operation that power which you Englishmen alone throughout the world are able to wield, then I say, good-bye to the English character, good-bye to the greatness of Great Britain (Loud cheers). Something has been said of the representatives whose votes this tax was imposed; but look who it was that consented to the tax, and see whether they were not what is called the 'friends of the people,' and look at those who opposed the vote, and you will find that it was the men who throughout their lives had been the bolsters of monopoly. It may be well to call to mind a man who is called the man of the people—a man whom the people taxed themselves to reward for the exertions which he had made in their favour. I refer to Richard Cobden, who, speaking of the Income-tax, said—

"Is there anything intrinsically worse in the Income-tax than in the taxes on tea and on wine? In what way is it worse? Does it give rise to greater oppression in its incidence? See how large a portion of the income of a poor man with a family is spent on the half ounce of tea that he is under the necessity of purchasing. What is paid for the duty on that tea? The same duty is paid on his tea, which you can purchase in the bonded warehouse at 10d. per lb., as on the finest flavoured pekoe or gunpowder, which costs 5s. or 6s. Can you show anything in the Income-tax more unjust in its operation than that? I might go through the whole list of taxes, and, although you would not find the same inequalities in all cases, yet let it be borne in mind that when you levy a tax on consumable articles of every-day comfort you may be sure the mass of the people pay a far larger sum in proportion to their income than is paid by the rich. I maintain you may always collect direct taxes cheaper than indirect taxes. I never heard it said that the Income-tax interferes with the progress of industry, or impedes commerce in any way whatever."

"I am sorry to have detained you so long, but I was desirous you should set yourselves right with your representatives. I am as anxious as any one to do away with this obnoxious tax, but before I can consent to do so I must see my way clearly that Great Britain shall pay her debts honestly."

Other speeches followed, and a petition to Parliament, embodying the views of the meeting in opposition to the Income-tax, was agreed to, and the meeting, which did not terminate until past eleven o'clock, then broke up.

MR. SMITH O'BRIEN'S NEW MOVEMENT.—Mr. Smith O'Brien, having become tired of the self-imposed seclusion from politics in which he has lately been living, has addressed an epistle to "The People of Ireland," through the columns of the *Nation*, in which he discusses, at great length, the leading topics of the day, domestic and foreign. He first addresses himself to the Income-tax, and the question of its reduction from its present rate. He then, in principle, a Property-tax the most just of all taxes; and that even much may be said for an Income-tax, if properly graduated. If the present tax were made useful to Ireland in any way he would hardly do more than urge a modification of its exactions. But it is exacted for purposes in which, in his opinion, Ireland has no interest whatever. He asks the question, "What has Ireland gained by the late hostilities?" Living among the neutral populations of the Continent, he is able to say that the glory of success has been attributed exclusively to France. He believes that Russia never would have entered the Principalities if Lord Aberdeen's Government had given honest warning what it intended to do. He then glances at the prominent results of the struggle, and is forced to confess that the retrospect is not encouraging. The whole of our foreign policy is condemned in a style which must be highly gratifying to the Peace party. On the question of our war expenditure he says:—"During the year preceding that in which I was transported to the antipodes, the British Parliament advanced on loan £8,000,000, with a view to the relief of the Irish nation when suffering from famine. I well remember the insulting language with which this aid was accompanied; and, so great was the apparent magnitude of the effort, that it might have been supposed that England had exhausted all her resources in performing an act of unparalleled generosity; yet I find that last year an addition of £30,000,000 was made to the ordinary war estimates of the United Kingdom with scarcely a murmur of dissension; and Ireland has been subjected to an increase of taxation which would have been much more than sufficient to have provided an interest upon loans that would have been adequate, not only to have preserved the lives of the myriads who died of actual starvation, but also to have rendered the occurrence of the famine an era of unprecedented improvement. Does it not occur to the Irish taxpayers that it would be better to expend the resources of Ireland in promoting substantial measures of utility than to squander them in wars relative to the concerns of countries with which the interest of Ireland has scarcely an imaginable connection?"

NAVAL AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

THE Marquis of Salisbury has received orders to call out the whole of the men of the Middlesex Militia on the 17th of April.

MAJOR-GENERAL LORD WEST, C.B., accompanied by his Aide-de-Camp, Lieut. Buckley, of the Rifles, has left Hatfield House, on his return to the Camp at Shorncliffe.

THE Secretary of State for War has refused the application of Lieutenant-General Sir R. England, commanding the division at the Curragh, to have the school-rooms at the camp fitted up as a theatre for the amusement of the troops during the winter months.

THE acoustic system of communicating from deck to deck, or from or to aloft, on board ship, having answered so well in the British Navy, the Russian Admiralty have ordered all ships to be supplied with the tubes, and the patentee, Mr. William Wolfe Bonney, has just returned from Cronstadt, where he has been fitting his tubes to the new 84-gun steam-ship *Reliance*. All the other ships of the Russian Navy at Cronstadt are also ordered to be fitted in the spring with the like means of communicating, in any weather or circumstances, orders from and to any part of the ship.

THE *Sincoom* steam-transport is expected to arrive in Kings-town harbour in a few days, to take on board the service companies (600 strong) of the 33rd (Duke of Wellington's) Regiment, for conveyance to the Mauritius.

ON Wednesday last the troops stationed at St. Mary's Barracks, Chatham, having been assembled for inspection, an order was read from the War Office directing the discharge of 250 non-commissioned officers and men, who had been inspected by the Board of Commissioners from Chelsea Hospital and declared unfit for further service. A large number of the men to be discharged served in the Crimea during the whole of the campaign, and are decorated with the Crimean medal with four clasps.

THE volunteering for the several depôts at the provisional battalion, Chatham, has been attended with great success, several of the colonial and Indian depôts having received a large number of volunteers from other regiments. The 3rd Buffs and the 68th Light Infantry have given twenty-five volunteers to the 52nd Light Infantry and the 70th Regiment, both of which are on the Indian establishment; and the 26th Cameronians and the 35th Royal Sussex Regiments have also received a number of volunteers.

THE BROADSTONE TRAGEDY.—In the seventh week after the butchery of Mr. Little it would appear that the efforts of the police to trace home the crime have been utterly paralysed, and that the only effect of all the solemn investigations has been the casting of suspicion upon parties against whom there is not a shadow of ground for the foul imputations that have been whispered abroad during the last fortnight. To such lengths had these slanders been carried that a semi-official contradiction was published on Saturday evening in one of the Dublin journals. "The detectives now confess (says the *Dublin Evening Mail*) that they have altogether failed in accomplishing anything towards the discovery of the guilty party. As to the extent of their inquiries little is certainly known; but an anecdote is current which, whether it be true or false in its exact details, does, we believe, faithfully illustrate the mode of their mysterious process. Early in the business, it is said, the police made use of the services of a French clairvoyante, who was introduced to them and brought to Ireland for that special purpose by an eminent dignitary of the Church. This lady having been put *en rapport* with Jonathan Wild, or some other detective, departed, made her revelations at a *cour plénière* of the railway directors. It is remarkable, however, that the prophesies, who could see back into the past and forward into the future, and who could tell the secrets of other worlds, could not understand nor speak a word of English. Both she and the worthy chairman were, in short, gravelled for lack of that small matter in a miracle—the gift of tongues. There is no knowing what might have been learned upon the occasion had an universal language been matured for service in that board-room; but all that could be spelled out by the aid of 'Boyer's Dictionary' was that the murderer was in the building. The scene and the result do, we believe, show the manner and the extent of the police inquiries in this most horrible transaction. To this hour the public does not know whether or not money was taken from the office of the murdered man. It is entirely ignorant of the state of his accounts and transactions with others. It has received no explanation of the strange circumstances attending the finding of the body—of the cause that prevented the opening of his office for so many hours—of the extraordinary rumour of suicide so long kept aloft. It has not been informed respecting the connection that must have subsisted between individuals and the locality where the bag of money is said to have been found."

MONETARY TRANSACTIONS OF THE WEEK.

(From our City Correspondent.)

THE news at hand in the early part of the week, to the effect that Canton had been bombarded by our forces, had a slightly depressing influence upon the value of most National Stocks; but the unusually favourable returns issued by the Board of Trade, in reference to our exports during the month, and eleven months ending November 30, together with the flourishing state of the Revenue of the country—the increase in it, compared with 1855, being nearly £4,000,000—have checked any downward movement in the quotations. We may observe, however, that the amount of business doing, both for money and time, has been very moderate; nevertheless, the *contango* on Consols has been about one-half per cent—a proof that not a few of the jobbers and speculators anticipate improving markets. As regards the Unfunded Debt, we may state that it has continued very dull, and rather drooping. This feature in the market is chiefly attributed to a rapid increase in the demand for money; indeed, so extensive has it been this week that it is a matter of difficulty to obtain advances in Lombard-street, even upon the most approved paper, under 6 per cent.

In briefly glancing at the state of the market for Home Stocks and Securities during the year just closed, we perceive that Bank Stock fluctuated about 15 per cent; that the difference in Reduced Three per Cents was about 10; in Consols, 10; and in the New Three per Cents, 10 per cent. The fluctuations in Exchequer Bills were 32s.; at one period they sold at 12s. discount—at another, 24s. premium. Foreign Stocks and Railway Shares were mostly at their lowest point in January—the highest quotations being marked in April, May, and June. The value of money at the Bank of England fluctuated from 2½ to 7 per cent.

Several parcels of gold—valued at £70,000—have been withdrawn from the Bank of England this week for shipment to the Continent. The imports have been liberal, viz., £640,000 from Australia, £54,000 from America, £20,000 from the Peninsula, and £40,000 in silver from Antwerp. There has been an active demand for the latter metal, and prices have slightly improved, notwithstanding that the exchanges both at Shanghai and Canton came lower—those at the former port being 7s. 5d., at the latter 4s. 8d. Our Indian advices—which state that money was in great demand at 8 per cent—are still in favour of extensive shipments of bullion from this country. About £300,000 of the gold received from Australia has been purchased for the Bank of France.

The Swiss Government are about to raise a loan of £480,000 to carry on the war with Prussia. The bonds are to be of £20, £10, and £200, bearing interest of 5 per cent per annum.

The Consol Market was flat on Monday, and prices were rather easier than on Saturday. The Three per Cents Reduced marked 94½; the New Three per Cents, 94½; Consols for Account, 94½; Long Annuities, 1860, 2½; Exchequer Bills, 1s. dis. to 2s. prem.; Exchequer Bonds, 98½. The quotations on Tuesday were a trifle lower, with a dull market.—Bank Stock was 218; the Three per Cents Reduced were 94 to 94½; New Three per Cents, 94½; Consols for Account, 94; Long Annuities, 1860, 2½; India Bonds, 1s. dis.; Exchequer Bills, 1s. dis. to 3s. prem.; Exchequer Bonds, 1858, 98½; Ditto, 1859, 98½. There was an improved feeling in the market on Wednesday, and prices showed a disposition to advance.—Bank Stock realised 216½ to 218; the Three per Cents Reduced were 94½; the New Three per Cents, 94½; Consols for Account, 94½; Long Annuities, 1860, 2½; India Bonds, 2s. dis. to 1s. prem.; Exchequer Bills, 2s. dis. to 2s. and 3s. prem. The transactions in Home Stocks on Thursday were limited.—The Three per Cents opened at 94½ for the present Account, and closed at 94½; for the February Account the prices were 94½; the New Three per Cents marked 94½ to 94½; and the Reduced, 94½; India Bonds were 2s. dis. to 3s. prem.; Exchequer Bills, 1s. dis. to 2s. prem.; Ditto Bonds, under £300, 98½.

The Board of Trade returns for the month, and eleven months ending the 30th of November, present very favourable results. The total shipments in that month were £20,149,383, against £7,674,718 in the corresponding period in 1855, and £3,771,772 in 1854. In the eleven months they amounted, exclusive of the "unenumerated" articles, to £34,205,404, against £26,312,616 in 1855, and £29,064,589 in 1854. The total exports show an improvement of nearly 22 per cent.

Notwithstanding that the transactions in the Foreign-haven have been comparatively limited, prices have ruled tolerably firm.—Buenos Ayres Six per Cents have realised 83; Guatemala Five per Cents, 65; Mexican Three per Cents, 2½; Peruvian Three per Cents, 5½; Portuguese Three per Cents, 4½; Sardinian Five per Cents, 89; Turkish Six per Cents, 95½; Turkish Four per Cents, 103; Dutch Two-and-a-Half per Cents, 65½; Spanish Three per Cents, 42½; Spanish New Deferred, 2½; Venezuela Four-and-a-Quarter per Cents, 37½; Brazilian Five per Cents, Small, 100½; Russian Five per Cents, 107½; Dutch Four per Cents, 97½. All Joint-Stock Bank Shares have continued firm in price; but the business doing in them has been very moderate. Chartered of India, China, and Australia have been 5½; City, 6½; Commercial of London, 27½; English, Scottish, and Australian Chartered, 17½; London Chartered of Westminster, 45½; Oriental, 34; Ottoman, 13½.

So few transactions have taken place in Miscellaneous Securities that prices have ruled almost nominal. Canada Government Six per Cents have marked 113½; English and Australian Copper Smelting Company, 1½; London Omnibus, 3½; National Discount Company, 6; Ditto, New, 1½; New South Wales Government Debentures, 102½; North British Australasian, 1½; North of Europe Steam, 13½; Peninsular and Oriental Steam, New, 14 ex div. and bonus; South Australian Land, 36½; Van Diemen's Land, 16 ex div.; East and West India Docks, 126; London Docks, 106½; Derby Canal, 84; Loughborough, 550; Oxford, 103; Regent's, 16½; Staffordshire and Worcester, 440; Berlin Waterworks, 4½; Grand Junction, 75; Kent, 81; Lambeth, 95; and West Middlesex, 101.

We have had a dull market for Railway Shares, and prices have shown a disposition to give way. The total "calls" last year were £13,308,078; and those for the present month, so far as they have been advertised, amount to £265,457; but they are expected to exceed £1,000,000. The following are the official closing prices on Thursday:—

ORDINARY SHARES AND STOCKS.—Ambergate, Nottingham, and Boston, 4½; Bristol and Exeter, 93½; Chester and Holyhead, 37½; Dundee, Perth, and Aberdeen Junction, 10½; East Lancashire, 94; Edinburgh, Perth, and Dundee, 36; Great Northern, 91½; Ditto, A Stock, 77; Great Western, 68½; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 97½; London and Blackwall, 7; London and North-Western, 107; London and South-Western, 107½; Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, 34½; Midland, 83; North-Eastern (Berwick), 84½; Ditto, York, 61; North Staffordshire, 12½; Shropshire Union, 50; South Eastern, 74½; South Wales, 83½.

PREFERENCE SHARES.—Edinburgh, Perth, and Dundee, 76½; Great Northern Five per Cent, 110; London and Brighton New Six per Cent, 142; Ditto, Five per Cent, 118; Midland Consolidated, 137½; Ditto, Leicester and Hitchin, 90.

BRITISH POSSESSIONS.—Bombay, Baroda, and Central India, 10½; Buffalo and Lake Huron, 12½; Ceylon B Shares, 2½; East Indian, 115; Ditto C Shares, 17½; Geelong and Melbourne, 21½; Grand Trunk of Canada, 56; Great Indian Peninsula, 22½; Ditto, New, 5½; Great Western of Canada, 25; Ditto, New, 10½; Madras Extension, 10½.

FOREIGN. Antwerp and Rotterdam, 7; Great Central of France, 22½; Great Luxembourg, 5½; Lombard-Venetian, 12½; Northern of France, 37½; Paris and Lyons, 55½; Sambre and Meuse, 14.

Mining shares have been steady. On Thursday Brazilian Imperial—St. John del Rey—were 15½; Great Wheat Vor United, 5½; Santiago de Cuba, 2; United Mexican, 3½.

THE MARKETS.

CORN EXCHANGE, Dec. 29.—A very moderate supply of English wheat was on sale in to-day's market, in but middling condition. We had an improved demand for most kinds, and nearly the whole of the supplies changed hands, at fully last Monday's quotations. Foreign wheat—the show of which was seasonably good—was in improved request, and prices showed a tendency to advance. Flouting cargoes of grain commanded extra prices as dear as last week. Malt sold steadily, but no change took place in its value. Good sound oats realised full currencies; but inferior and damp parcels were very dull. Both beans and peas met a dull inquiry, on former terms. Flour was in better request, and Norfolk qualities were held for more money.

Dec. 31.—Very moderate supplies of most articles of grain were on sale to-day, and the trade generally ruled steady, at very full prices.

English.—Wheat, Essex and Kent, red, 53s. to 66s.; ditto, white, 51s. to 73s.; Norfolk and Suffolk, red, 52s. to 64s.; rye, 38s. to 42s.; grinding barley, 31s. to 33s.; distilling ditto, 37s. to 38s.; maiting ditto, 36s. to 38s.; Lincoln and Norfolk malt, 67s. to 76s.; brown ditto, 65s. to 68s.; Kingston and Ware, 69s. to 77s.; Chevalier, 77s. to 78s.; Yorkshire and Lincolnshire feed oats, 24s. to 26s.; potato ditto, 25s. to 32s.; Young's and Cork, black, 28s. to 30s.; ditto, white, 21s. to 30s.; tick beans, 34s. to 35s.; grey peas, 38s. to 39s.; maple, 40s. to 41s.; white, 40s. to 42s.; boilers, 40s. to 42s. per quarter. Town-made flour, 58s. to 60s.; Suffolk, 41s. to 42s.; Stockton and Yorkshire, 42s. to 43s. per 280 lb.; American flour, 38s. to 39s. per barrel.

Seeds.—There has been a full average business doing in this market for the time of year, as follows:—

Lined.—English crushing, 52s. to 61s.; Mediterranean and Odessa, 61s. 6d. to 63s.; hempeed, 44s. to 46s. per quarter. Coriander, 28s. to 30s. per cwt. Brown mustard seed, 12s. to 20s.; ditto, white, 10s. to 12s.; turn, 5s. 6d. to 6s. per bushel. English rapeseed, 82s. to 84s. per quarter. Linsed cakes, English, £10 10s. to £10 15s.; ditto, foreign, £10 0s. to £11 10s.; rape cakes, 45 10s. to 46 10s. per ton. Canola, 6s. to 7s. per quarter.

Wheat.—The prices of wheat bread in the metropolis are from 9d. to 9½d; of household ditto, 7½d. to 8½d. per 4lb. loaf.

Imperial Weekly Averages.—Wheat, 50s. 8d.; barley, 43s. 11d.; oats, 23s. 7d.; rye, 33s. 9d.; beans, 42s. 4d.; peas, 46s. 2d.

The Six Weeks' Averages.—Wheat, 61s. 1d.; barley, 41s. 2d.; oats, 21s. 8d.; rye, 40s. 7d.; beans, 44s. 2d.; peas, 41s. 9d.

English Grain Sold last Week.—Wheat, 52,236; barley, 107,306; oats, 12,749; rye, 223; beans, 57,671; peas, 27,149 quarters.

Tea.—The news from China, in reference to the bombardment of Canton, has produced great excitement in our market this week, and a considerable advance has taken place in the quotations. In the early part of the week common sound Congou realised 1s., but it has since declined to 11d. per lb. At this advance only 20,000 chests have changed hands.

Sugar.—The market is closed for the holidays, yet several parcels of raw sugar have been laid buyers privately, at an advance of from 6d. to 1s. per cwt. Refined goods have, likewise, produced 1s. per cwt. more money.

Coffee.—All kinds continue in steady request, at very full prices.

Rice.—A full average business is doing in this article, at late rates. The stock is about 53,000 tons.

Provisions.—Nearly all kinds of butter have moved off slowly since our last report, yet no quotable change has taken place in prices. Bacon continues very dull, at barely the late decline. Both lard and tallow may be purchased at earlier rates.

Tallow.—Our market is quiet, yet prices are freely supported. P.Y.C. on the spot has sold at 58s. 6d. to 59s. per cwt. Town tallow is 57s. 9d. net cash.

Lined oil, on the spot, has moved off slowly, at 37s. 6d. per cwt. All other oils are a dull sale. Turpentine is active, and American spirits are worth 48s. to 50s. per cwt.

Spirits.—There is a steady business doing in rum, at extraneous rates. Proof Lowlands, 2s. 6d. per gallon. All kinds of brandy continue firm in price, and the finest parcels are held at 12s. 6d. per gallon. Malt spirit, proof, 11s. 2d.; Geneva, 3s. to 4s. per gallon.

Hay and Straw.—Meadow hay, £2 10s. to £2 4s.; clover ditto, £3 10s. to £3 0s.; and straw, £1 4s. to £1 9s. per load.

Cattle.—Hastings's Hartley, 16s.; Walker Primrose, 16s. 3d.; Eden Main, 19s. 3d.; Braddy's, 18s.; Buryell, 18s. 3d.; Lambton, 19s.; South Hutton, 19s.; Curados, 18s.; Kellie, 18s. 6d.; Tees, 18s. per ton.

Hops.—The show of samples is very moderate, and the demand generally is steady. In some instances prices have an upward tendency.

Wool.—Holders are very firm, and most of them refuse to sell, except on higher terms.

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"TOFEI GOES OUT, AND FANAYO LEAVES MISAWO AND KOYOSI WITH KUTSIWO."

THE FOLDING SCREEN: A JAPANESE TALE.

(From a Correspondent.)

THE curiosity of a really Japanese tale, such as we present in outline this day to our readers, must be tested by the fact that no other has ever, so far as we can learn, reached Europe and England. Though, through the medium of travellers, the general state of the Japanese empire, its manners and customs, have been so far made known to the world, it is chiefly to the class of recondite students that these have been useful; and perhaps the illustrations exhibited so often in our own columns have been the sole means of spreading the information regarding that singular and isolated State very widely amongst the public.

The tenour of the story itself appears in striking contrast with those

of Chinese origin, to which it might be supposed, from the vicinity and juxtaposition of the two nations, most nearly to approach. Neither in manners nor feelings is there anything in common between the two races; and if the reader will cast back his thoughts to the tissue and conduct of any Chinese narrative, the difference will be strikingly apparent at every step.

The tale begins with the expedition of a man of rank, Abosi Tamontara, to shoot snipes. A bird of this genus, seen at the close of evening in a neighbouring marsh, creates a discussion among the attendants as to its nature, and whether the marsh itself should be properly styled by its common appellation as that of the rising snipes, or of funeral trees.

The master takes part in this discussion, but, in the meantime an

unlucky youth, son of one of the principal attendants, with an ill-fated skill in archery, an art highly cultivated in Japan, shoots at the bird, so as simply to detach one feather only, which he lays before the master to show the bird is a snipe.

Tamontara had smiled in superiority just before, in determining the ambiguity of the epithet bestowed on the marsh; but the presumption of an inferior daring to shoot in his presence, rouses him to rage, and, despite all explanation, he drives the offender from his service, and dismisses his father also. Here the curtain drops on the scene, and the narrative, continued eight years after, turns to a different matter. Kadziyemon, an aged rice-merchant of Utsimo-Sima, adopted one Sakitsi as his son; and dying, his wife became a nun, or more properly, perhaps, a devotee, such as, retiring from matters of business



KOMATSU. WOFANA. TSEIKUSAI. TOFEI. SAKITSI.

"KOMATSU AND WOFANA, WHILE TSEIKUSAI QUESTIONS TOFEI, ARE DESCRIBED BY SAKITSI."

in general, still live in the world and take a mitigated interest in it and their own family affairs.

Sakitsi, holding her in the highest reverence, falls ill from over-attention to business; recovering in some degree, he finds a substitute for the business, and travels to Yamato, entering into cheerful society along the way.

But in the neighbourhood of the temple of Nanyin, in Nara, a beautiful maiden was in the habit of attending a tea-house, accompanied by a little girl of four years of age. The elder was a girl of brilliant powers; and while her harp and song won the ears and contributions of the listeners (which the child, according to Japanese etiquette, received on her fan), her conversation and personal charms won the heart of Sakitsi, which his handsome face rendered a not very disagreeable conquest.

But the lovely Misawo was poor; and the poverty of her relations had driven the generous girl to this mode of life, equivocal enough at least. Thus conscious of her position, she showed no particular favour to her admirer; but the conversations and intimacy went quietly and steadily on nevertheless.

The contributions from the company of the tea-house, however, were insufficient to meet the wants of her relatives. Tofei, who had held the post of a soldier, an employ deemed honourable even in the case of privates, had eloped with the sister of the military noble he served, and later, made her his wife. Fanayo, in due season, gave birth to a daughter, the child Koyosi, of the narrative.

But this child was not the only burden on the wedded pair. Kutsiwa, Tofei's mother, had an illness that deprived her of sight, and Kad-zumara, his former master, having been disgraced and lost his fortune, was unable to maintain his daughter. By his wife's advice, therefore, he sent her for a time to his fugitive sister Fanayo, and her husband Tofei, for support; imagining them to be in good circumstances, as Fanayo's letters had stated; though Tofei, stripped of nearly all his furniture by distress in the house, had become a sedan-bearer, and in reality could scarcely maintain his family.

To obviate the growing distress of her protectors the gentle Misawo, finding her tea-house labours insufficient, resolves upon a desperate step—a deeper advance in personal degradation for herself; and sells her liberty for a certain term of years to one Saizo.

Saizo, hardened as he is, betrays some regret at the desperate expedient. The bargain, however, is struck; the money (100 taels) paid; and the document that conveys away the liberty of Misawo is signed, when Saizo calls on Misawo at the tea-house for the purpose of completing the arrangements. The scene, concisely given, is nevertheless told with simplicity, and some considerable effect. In fact, the situations of the tale rise throughout into considerable natural interest, and without any attempt at pathos or display in the author.

Misawo, who, to spare the feelings of her relations, had pretended that her visits, really to the tea-house, were directed to the temple, and to pray for their welfare; and who had changed her humble copper earnings always into gold, passing it off as remittances from her home, had obtained by manoeuvre her aunt's signature, indispensable to the document for Saizo; and now manoeuvres afresh to get off without the knowledge of Tofei and Fanayo.

The morning comes: it is the Feast of Peaches—a festival from the earliest times, and celebrated by rich and poor universally throughout Japan, though in widely different modes by the two. Even in the poverty of Tofei's dwelling something like an attempt at observance is made by the little girl Koyosi before her petty images, scant relics of the furniture of better times; but a single peach forms the propitiatory offering, and an infantine tale is the ritual:—

Tofei goes to his daily labour; and

Misawo then turned to Fanayo, and said, "In order to obtain by my prayers your return to the dwelling of your father, and restoration to your former state, and for Dame Kutsiwa's recovery from this sad affliction of the eyes, I have daily visited the Temple of Nanyin; but to-day, owing to the unusual chilliness of the weather, I feel very unwell: would you have the kindness to go there instead of me, now?" Fanayo consented. "And, while I am gone, do you give mother her medicine, when she wakes. Keep yourself warm; and take care that you don't get seriously ill. Koyosi, mamma, is going out awhile to prayer; behave properly to my deputy, and wait till I come back." So saying, she went out of the house alone.

Shortly afterwards Saizo, just come from the house Tokuwaka, peeped in at the door, and asked by signs if the opportunity was favourable. Misawo first replied in a whisper, "Come here," and then aloud, "Yes, it is all right." Saizo coughed knowingly, "Is any one there? I am come as an escort." Misawo clasped her hands, and he proceeded with a sly grin, "I am a retainer of the magistrate of Jenja, and am called Tokuwaka Saizo. It is high time that the damsel Misawo should show herself, in obedience to the order of the first waiting-dame, Madame Iwafudzi. I have brought for you a four-poled palanquin, really shining all over, and with golden shoulder-pillows; it is waiting now in the street. Get your things together then, and be ready, quick."

Old Dame Kutsiwa, who thought all he said was true, opened the screen of the bed. "What! are you going off directly, and to take a situation as attendant?"

"Yes; sister and Mr. Tofei gave their consent very unwillingly; and, as I imagined your illness would have been over by this time, I put it off till to-day."

"No matter about that: though my son Tofei and my daughter-in-law will be exceedingly sorry as well as myself, yet housewife Fanayo has shown such affectionate attention to me that illness makes no difficulty. I have never said so much to you before, but I felt for you always the highest esteem. What I feel in my heart in consequence of this event, and would fain declare to you without delay, I will another time—it may be long first, if ever—mention to you. What will you bet on it? I know this gentleman you speak about; very well, then: in what place stands the house of this honoured judge?"

At this question Saizo's countenance betrayed much embarrassment. "The honoured residence is in the Vale of Fans, in very truth: here is the plain of sickle-rooms; you have to pass by a hundred trees. Oh, it is, indeed, a very extensive prospect. You, being ill, might stay at the Mountain of the Eight Flags, near the Temple of Convalescence; beyond that mountain you leave the ferry-place to the left, and, if you inquire again there for the residence of the honoured magistrate, you will be at once informed where it is."

"Your description of the place is quite new; I have often been in that neighbourhood, but never heard or saw any such thing; when was that house built there?"

When he heard this he was greatly puzzled, but replied, "Oh! a long time ago—a very long time, the tenth year of Miraku was the year of its erection, it is the mansion which the people of the province built."

"It must be a very large building!"

"As large as it can be; the great hall is astounding, there are five hundred striped carpets with fringes; five hundred Korean carpets with fringes; five hundred embroidered silk carpets, fifteen hundred of these altogether, astonish the people."

He tried to recollect the name, but it had just slipped his memory. Misawo saw this and said abruptly, "The draught is very strong there, and you will take cold, come this way." She took Kutsiwa's hand, led her into the chamber, and drew behind her the screen of the bed. "What sort of dress shall I put on?"

Having said this, she put back her hair from her head, but without making any such change of dress as she referred to. Saizo took from out a copper scroll the hundred taels. Misawo eagerly gave him the written contract in exchange for them, and holding the gold in her hand, looked carefully all round her, then put the money up with a valedictory letter, which she had previously written and hidden behind the images spoken of above, and concealed the whole in the dog-chest.

The dame Kutsiwa comes forth to make inquiry, and ascertain how the young lady dresses herself for the occasion; but Misawo, hastily snatching up an old silk curtain that covered the altar of Buddha in the room, throws it over her ordinary habiliments, and the sightless beldame is deceived by the touch.

Koyosi comes in, but her remarks on the novel apron are cut short by Misawo, who utters some unintelligible sentences. She next directs the child to give an explanation of her absence out of the little picture-book she had been reading—and which, by the way, contains a kind of tale *à propos* to the case—to her relations when they shall come in. She is then hurried off by Saizo.

Tofei returns just after, and hears of Misawo's departure with the greatest consternation. The tale from the picture-book throws little light on the subject; for it merely relates that a dog, whose life had been saved by a charitable person, led his kind preserver to where a treasure had been deposited.

Tofei, in despair, accidentally strikes his foot against the dog-chest (in Japan such articles of furniture assume fanciful shapes), and finds there the letter left by Misawo with the hundred taels. He conceals, however, from Kutsiwa the reason of Misawo's disappearance, and leads her out of the room under the pretext of its being too chill for her. But on Fanayo's return, the melancholy valedictory epistle is read to her, and the truth declared. As the contract is signed, and the money paid, however, all attempts to recall the transaction are hopeless. The money, applied to the actual wants of the parties, cures Kutsiwa's blindness, and enables the wedded pair to retire to Naniwa, in Si-Siou.

Misawo, now become a lutanist for the public, changes her name, according to Japanese customs, to Komatsu; but the vulgar prefix to this termination the epithet of Futatsugusi. Sakitsi also, having lost all clue to Misawo, now Komatsu, returns in despair to Naniwa, and there assumes the phenomenon of Mitsumon, but never once comes in contact with his mistress—the less, as his time is much occupied in excursions.

The second part of the tale commences five years after the foregoing events, with a dialogue between Fanayo, now called Wofana, and the fair Komatsu, who accompanies her home, where the young Koyosi has been instructed in music, and is singing a little ballad:—

They went up stairs together, and at the same time there approached the shore a decked vessel, with three men on board, talking freely to each other. One was the person with the altered name, known as Mitsumon Sakitsi; and in his company followed the airy, amiable doctor of spells and conjuration, Jabuwara Tsikusai, living at the Teaspoon of the Prattler's Hall; then came Tokazen, barefooted like an ape, and wearing a silken mantle, as if for every-day use.

"I say, there, can we take a cup together at your house as we go along?"

"Ay; in my humble dwelling you can have all refreshment."

As the other two guests offered no objection, mine host, Tofei, opened the gate of the front court leading to the verandah and showed the way in.

Oh, don't call it shabby and vulgar; this "Flowery House" is a place of entertainment within the shipping port. In front it offers little attraction, for it is an unpretending place, where there is nothing to see but a verandah of black wood, without any orange garden, and a strong foundation-wall with a wooden paling surmounting.

Tsikusai, without looking about him, entered, talking very loud, and Wofana cried out from up stairs.—"Worthy Mr. Sakitsi is an extraordinary sight to see in the southern quarter, where he never before has set his foot."

"Oh! that I know; though I never shut myself up from good companionship, and found a great deal of enjoyment in my own neighbourhood. This Sakitsi, leaning back and making the table his pillow, informed me in his delightful conversation that he had parted from his kind mother, and all his little enjoyments in his youth; he detested the labours of gainful trade, and his lot was never free from it; and so the physician stretched out his hand to him, and used at the approach of the frosty season to advise me to go back to the shop. So of late years he has not interfered any more with the business of the house, and has worn down his constitution by sighing. I have been told that it annoyed him that Tsikusai and Tokazen, though continually coming to his house, never allowed him to bear the new name of Mitsumon, with its meaning of the Threads of the Web; so that he, on his part, never could suffer their wearisome buffoonery."

After this incoherent speech, which betrays symptoms of wine, Tsikusai asks some ill-timed questions as to some silk threads of seven colours hung up before the image of a dog. Tofei avoids explanation, and when the figures on a screen are, with singular coarseness of spirit, referred to by Tokazen as recalling the flight of Wofana or Fanayo from her home with Tofei, this latter checks the remarks, and the conversation turns on the newly-arrived female musician, Futatsugusi Komatsu; another coarse allusion to the name of Mitsumon-Sakitsi calls up the disappointed lover:—

"In truth, when this screen moves to remind you that there is Komatsu absent, whose name I now hear repeated, though I do not see herself; it yields but a sad burden to the song that must render so trivial a name memorable to latest ages. If Wofatsen conceals the deities of heaven in his bosom, and if fatal stupidity brings them into the question; it is a melancholy business. Hitherto it has been my fixed determination never to bring myself into such companionship. Ah! these inconstant lute-girls are but merchandise, bought and sold! So soon as our money is all spent, they are off: this I know to be true, and attach all importance to the fact."

Just at this moment, while his wide-opened eyes in the full flow of conversation with his companions, were fixed idly upwards on the upper story, their glance fell suddenly on Futatsugusi Komatsu!

Wofana, who accompanied her, turned furtively round behind her back; and Sakitsi upset the cup he was holding, unconscious that its liquid contents were dropping down on his knee.

"The lute-girl here! Who is she, then?"

"It is Futatsugusi Komatsu, whom Mr. Tsikusai knows by report."

Sakitsi, astounded as he heard this, dashed the cup away, and unconsciously loosed and tightened his girdle. "Now I am come to my delight again!"

He enters the house at Tofei's invitation, and there meets the stainless and noble girl his words had just insulted:—

As Komatsu sat on a couch in the room, and kept her back turned, without uttering a word, Sakitsi, standing far off, said, forgetful of smoking his pipe, "I know not if you expect me in these few words to bring back the past to your recollection. When I wandered about in Yamato daily by the temple of Nanyin, I listened to the tones of your lute; and even in the midst of my enjoyment it was that you suddenly disappeared, and no one could tell where you were gone. A report was circulated that you had sold yourself, and I ceased not to seek for you everywhere, nor knew that you were here in Utsimo-sima, and in my own immediate neighbourhood. To-day I find myself in your presence; and as, for my own part, I am wholly ignorant, and cannot determine whether your feelings towards me still survive, yet, if this be the case, be kind enough to address a few words to me."

He makes her an offer of ten taels:—

"Be so good as to give this from me to Madame Fanayo, and if there is any of it to spare purchase a light dress with it, pray."

As he spoke Komatsu let his pipe fall without looking at it, and with averted face, made a humiliated bow.

"When the atmosphere is obscured by midnight thunder, clouds," proceeded Sakitsi, "it affords a sufficient sign. Why, then, will you not answer me?" and he snatched and smoothed her hand gently with his own.

"It is my resolve," she replied, "never in any case to carry friendship to a point injurious to my welfare. Those inconstant lute girls are but merchandise bought and sold. But the things reported of me, and which are received as truth, and of which folly stands persuaded, are unknown to Komatsu."

She spoke this with a voice distinct and sad; but he answered, interrupting her—

"I heard in that verandah that you were at the 'Sailors' Tavern.' Could I ever have uttered anything so barbarous? In very truth I abstained from all society; and, while seeking the place of your retreat, felt fully confident of the fact that you were still the maiden Misawo."

"If so why do you not bestow on me a gift of two or three coffee-bits merely, which is the usual amount of a contribution? So soon as you have spent all your money they are off. If, at the time of your interview with me, and when you did not despise nor point me to scorn by such terms, your sole purpose was this, and such the real state of your feelings. If this, the condition to which you meant to raise me, far better had it been to have had no feelings at all. While undreaming that you could have so deprived a heart, I have been a hundred times to-day and previously to the temple of Oizen. Only look here."

The scrap contains the oracle's answer to her inquiry "whether

there was any one who loved her." The response is his own name, and the scene terminates with the mutual alliance of the lovers, gracefully concluded, and the following reflections:—

When the bond of union is wrought by destiny, it can never again be loosened, but becomes a part of our existence; the three threads that expressed the name of Sakitsi, alternately coming and going, develop their feelings. This year beheld them wrapt in visions of delight, and the green returning spring was Komatsu. But the visitations of the world surrounded and spared him not. Day by day, as the song of the birds invited, he went out with her, hand in hand.

But his rambles with his beloved, and the expenses of these excursions, exhaust his finances; and Miosan, his adopted mother, the devotee, who could not bear the news of his embarrassments, shuts up Sakitsi in the house, and never allows him out of her sight.

Sakitsi, reduced to console himself with "the many tender epistles" of Komatsu, hidden for him by his friend Tsikusai in a flower vase, is one day surprised by his adopted mother, Miosan, who, coming with a pretext about an almanack, reads him a lecture on perceiving his confusion. Just at this juncture Wofana appears, disguised as a conjurer, "to burn the bamboo leaf," in order to amend the heart and habits of Sakitsi, as the latter pretends to his mother. She retires, and Wofana explains the story of Komatsu to her lover, and her own elopement with Tofei to Yamato in years past. The tale is well told; but it now appears that Komatsu's father, who had lost his station by neglect of a falcion intrusted to him by his superior, is now restored to fortune, and has sent Komatsu's half-brother, Juki-maro Kiusuke, to bring back his daughter to Kamakura, as she was contracted in marriage there. The envoy means to purchase her release from Saizo, and bear her home with him, despite her own reluctance. As she is in despair, Sakitsi agrees to meet her that evening.

No sooner is Wofana gone than the old devotee returns to Sakitsi, lectures him severely once more on his duplicity as to the pretended conjurer, &c.; but finishes by giving him the hundred taels, to extricate his mistress from her disgraceful thrall.

Sakitsi puts the money into his bosom, and hastens to the evening interview. Komatsu is at the window upstairs, and conversation begins; but, interrupted by the barking of a dog, Sakitsi drops the packet of taels from his breast, and throws it as a stone in the dark at the assailant. It falls into a boat, waking the sleeping occupant; and Sakitsi, shrinking from notice, touches the girdle of his beloved, suspended from the window, and gains her presence by its assistance.

The despair of Komatsu is extreme; her lover reassures her with the fact of the money; but, on searching for it, first discovers and divines the cause of its loss. He now fully participates in the agony of his mistress, and declares his intention to die with her, that they may be united hereafter.

At this inauspicious moment the entrance of a stranger drives Sakitsi to take refuge in a kind of long box, used by the Japanese as a dresser. The large sleeves and dress of Komatsu conceal the door of this hiding-place, and her lover thus becomes the unwilling witness of a scene in which the stranger (it is Kiusuke) refuses the entreaties of Komatsu to report her as dead, and leave her there to marry Sakitsi. He has raised the money for her release upon his credit, and insists on the strict fulfilment of his mission.

Wofana in vain comes in to the rescue, protesting that though the return home is eligible, yet that the maiden has been visited by a go-between; that is, has had an offer of marriage, and therefore is bound to remain and complete that engagement in preference.

Kiusuke is immovable. Her mother had sent him to bring home Komatsu, as she herself wishes to retire from the world, cut off her hair, and become a nun: after the fashion of Miosan, and the Japanese system of devoting the later period of existence chiefly to religious observances. Her father, too, is jealous of his honour in completion of the marriage contract; and, in case of failure, might probably adopt the Japanese custom of putting an end to his own existence.

To sum up his arguments he gives to Komatsu her mother's letter. The innocent and beautiful girl is in despair: "My course and my conduct have darkened my reputation; in both I have gone astray. And, yet, something of good remains in me." She yields, therefore, and consents to bid her lover, Sakitsi, a final adieu.

Yet this, after all is but a finesse to obtain the opportunity of terminating her own life in her lover's presence. The whole scene is full of native peculiarities, but narrated with life, truth, spirit, and feeling; and we have only to regret that it is not in our power to give the dramatic effect with which the whole is carried out. The poetic merit of the songs introduced leads us to regret that they are so few and so concise. The two principal would certainly pass into the most fastidious collections of Europe, for their merits and tone are far nearer the English than the Oriental style. The tale ends well. It is not impossible that the Emperor of Japan, who honours this paper with his subscription, may for the first time read a tale from his native language in the columns of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

GUIZOT AND THIERS.—There is much talk in Paris of a recent visit of M. Guizot to M. Thiers, to discuss the prospects of the forthcoming elections. M. Guizot, ever since he has been out of office, has been much more anxious to play a part in politics than M. Thiers, who, immersed in his historical pursuits, is well content to stand aloof from active participation in the events of the time. It is rumoured accordingly that M. Guizot's suggestions for an understanding between the different fractions of the monarchical parties were very coldly received by M. Thiers.

FRANCE AND PERSIA.—The *Presse* of Monday last contains an article of some interest on the subject of the Island of Karak, which the English have taken as their base of operations in the Persian Gulf. That island, the *Presse* declares, belongs to France, having been ceded by treaty in 1769 to M. Pyraut, French Consul at Bassora, by Kerim-Khan, Vakil of Persia. The article of the Paris journal concludes as follows:—"In present political circumstances the rights of France on Karak might produce complications of an unexpected nature in the Anglo-Persian difficulty. We may mention one single instance which might arise were Persia our ally, to express her discontent at seeing an English army transform the French Island of Karak into its base of operations; this would suffice to compel the French Government to interfere in the question."

IMPORTANT AND CURIOUS FROM ABYSSINIA.—Letters from Abyssinia and Egypt mention that the Christian King Theodore is developing natural talents of a high order. He has not only great personal courage, but powers of combination and organisation which mark him out as likely to play a striking part in this remote corner of the world. He has got together an army of 15,000 men, and is described as the Mohammed Ali of the Upper Basin of the Nile. King Theodore's attitude gives great umbrage to the Egyptian Government, and it is feared that there may be a collision on the southern frontier of the Egyptian possessions in Sudan. This is altogether a new feature in the history of Eastern Africa. Further details are desired with great impatience. Abyssinia, as is well known, is the Switzerland of the upper regions of the Nile, being a mountainous country with abundant pastures. The faith of the inhabitants is Christian of the Coptic rite, and they receive their Patriarch from Egypt, which they regard as the spiritual metropolis. They speak and write the ancient Ethiopic language; but they have among them many Jews of the Karaites, but not of the Israelite form. The females are of great beauty, and are sold in large numbers for the harems of Cairo.

PRESENTATION TO THE LATE MAYOR OF BIRMINGHAM.—A number of the friends of T. R. T. Hodgson, Esq., the ex-Mayor of Birmingham, have presented him with a service of plate, as a mark of personal respect, and in testimony of their appreciation of his spirited and efficient discharge of his duties as chief magistrate. The subscription (which was conducted privately, and was open for a few days only) amounted to two hundred guineas. This sum was expended in the purchase of the elegant service of plate, designed by Messrs. Elkington, Mason, and Co., of Birmingham. The entire piece is of a very novel and elegant form, from the antique, the tripod being cleverly adapted to the uses and ornament of the modern dinner-table.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF HUNGARY.—The Archduke Albert, who has just been named Governor-General of Hungary, will enjoy the following rights:—He is to be considered as the immediate representative of the Emperor in Hungary, and he has a right to all the honours due to the Sovereign of the country. He unites in his person the functions of Governor-General and General-in-Chief in Hungary, and is at the same time the Commandant of the third corps d'armée, Governor-General, and General Commander-in-Chief in Hungary. In virtue of the last-named qualities he is charged with the whole of the civil and military administration of the country.

On Thursday, the 18th ultimo, the friends of the Rev. R. Bickerdike presented to him a purse, containing seventy sovereigns, in token of their appreciation of his zealous and efficient discharge of the duties of Curate of St. Saviour's, Southwark.

Last year the sum expended an account of Polish exiles by the country was £3092. In the previous year it was £4575.

DEATH OF MR. HUGH MILLER, AND MEMOIR OF HIS LIFE.

THE well-known Scottish geologist and popular miscellaneous writer, Mr. Hugh Miller, died last week under circumstances of a peculiarly painful and distressing character. On the morning of Wednesday, December 24th, he was found dead in his room, shot through the body by his own hand. Like Laman Blanchard, Angus Reach, and too many others, he has fallen a victim to excessive mental labour, that evil peculiarly besetting men of letters in these days of restless competition and unceasing velocity. Miller had arrived at the sober age of fifty-four. He had become famous and prosperous, was surrounded by wife, children, and friends, and dwelt at Portobello, near Edinburgh, in a large sea-side mansion which he had purchased, adding to it a museum and other fruits of cultivated taste and successful study. The destroyer entered in the familiar and unsuspected form of literary ambition. Mr. Miller had for some time been engaged on a work called "The Testimony of the Rocks." There appears to have been no call for immediate publication, or undue haste; but he laboured at his task night and day, seldom leaving the house, or taking exercise. His health had previously been shattered by attacks of severe illness, presenting indications of mental disease, and this new toil aggravated all the previous symptoms. Fits of somnambulism, to which he had been subject in his youth, returned, and he got little refreshing sleep. He imagined himself and his museum to be in danger from robbers; and, having for many years carried a pistol on his person, he now added a revolver, a dagger, and broadsword—all which were disposed about his bed. He was afflicted with paroxysms of acute pain in the head, as if a poniard had been driven through the brain; and with dreams full of horror and despair. On awaking in the morning he felt as if he had been abroad in the night wind, dragged through places by some invisible power, and ridden by a witch for fifty miles. Still, on escaping from these ghastly midnight visions, his intellect seems to have regained its usual clearness and discrimination. He put the last hand to his new work on Tuesday. The "Testimony" was completed; and his medical advisers counselled him to abstain from further labour; to use the warm sponge bath, and take some medicines which they prescribed. No one appears to have apprehended danger. The evening of this his last day was spent with his family. He read aloud Cowper's "Castaway"—an ominous and melancholy strain; the sonnet to Mary Unwin, and some lighter verses. He then retired to his study, and used the bath, but left untasted the medicine. His medical friends, conscious, as they said, that there were "head symptoms," and that his brain had been overworked, should certainly have seen that the firearms were removed and the medicine—most probably an opiate—taken. The unfortunate patient slept alone, at a distance from his family; he seems again to have had one of his harrowing dreams, or trances; and, on awaking, he must have meditated self-destruction. He wrote on a folio sheet of paper, in a hand much larger than usual, the following valedictory fragment:—

Dearest Lydia,—My brain burns. I must have walked; and a fearful dream rises upon me. I cannot bear the horrible thought. God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ have mercy upon me! Dearest Lydia, dear children, farewell. My brain burns as the recollection grows. My dear, dear wife, farewell!

HUGH MILLER.

We learn from a private note that, in order to facilitate the fatal pistol shot he had opened his shirt and flannel vest. The report was not heard, but next morning the body was found, half-dressed, stretched on the floor, the revolver having fallen from his hand, or been thrown by him into the bath. The aim was sure and steady—the bullet entered the left breast, and death must have been instantaneous. A sad and miserable termination to a life drama full of noble lessons and of manly and successful struggles!

Hugh Miller was a native of Cromarty, a small seaport town in the north of Scotland, on the shores of the Moray Frith, which also gave birth to Assistant-Surgeon Thomson, so distinguished in the late war for his generous and self-sacrificing services to the wounded on the field of battle. Both died at the post of duty—Thomson in the cause of humanity; and Miller in extending the field of geological research, which he loved, not wisely, but too well. Hugh Miller was of a race of seafaring men who owned coasting vessels, and built houses in Cromarty. One had done a little in the way of buccaneering on the Spanish main. Most of them perished at sea. In the time of Hugh's grandfather there had not been a male interred in the family burying-ground for a hundred years; and this grandfather also met a watery death. His son, the father of Hugh Miller, was lost in a violent storm off Peterhead, and his sloop wrecked in 1807. Hugh was then five years of age. "I used to climb day after day," he says, "up a grassy protuberance of the old coast line immediately behind my mother's house, that commands a wide reach of the Moray Frith, and to look wistfully out, long after every one else had ceased to hope, for the sloop with the two stripes of white and the two square topsails; but months and years passed by, and the white stripes and the square topsails I never saw." The poor widowed mother picked up a scanty subsistence by engaging as a seamstress, and by assistance from some relatives. By the time he had reached his sixth year Hugh Miller had spent his way, at a dame's school, through the Shorter Catechism (quite long enough, and more than deep enough, for children), the Book of Proverbs, the New Testament, and a pretty general and miscellaneous collection of books. Truth and fiction, old works of theology, and the voyages of Anson, Drake, Raleigh, and Dampier fell in his way. He had two maternal uncles—a shoemaker and a saddler—and by these men and by his mother he was tightly catechised and instructed after the good old Presbyterian fashion. In his twelfth year he was sent to the Grammar-school; but the Dominic was careless, and the boys did pretty much as they liked. Hugh commenced Latin, but made no progress. Out of doors his education was going on; and after a storm, when the shores of Cromarty were strewn with water-rolled fragments of the primary rocks, he soon learned to take a deep interest in sauntering over the pebble-beds and in distinguishing their numerous components. A visit made to an aunt resident in the Highlands of Sutherland, afforded him exquisite enjoyment, and extended his study of natural history. As he grew up he became a somewhat wild insubordinate boy, and having one day got a severe drubbing from his schoolmaster, he took down his cap from the pin on which it hung, and marched out of school; revenging himself before night by writing a copy of satirical verses, entitled "The Pedagogue." Hugh now became a stonemason. He was apprenticed for three years; and getting a suit of mole-skin clothes and a pair of hobnail shoes, he entered on a life of labour in the Cromarty quarries. His sensations and geological discoveries while toiling in the quarry are beautifully described in the opening chapters of his work on the Old Red Sandstone. A life of labour in such a sphere as this has its temptations, and the drinking usages of the masons were at that time carried to excess. Hugh learned to regard the ardent spirits of the dram-shop as a high luxury, which gave lightness and energy to both body and mind. Usquebaugh, or whisky, he said, was "happiness doled out by the glass and sold by the gill." One night he was induced to take two whole glasses; he went home and tried to read Bacon's "Essays." The letters danced before his eyes, and feeling his situation to be one of a degrading character, he formed a resolution never again to sacrifice his capacity for intellectual enjoyment to a drinking usage. And he kept his word. This was a grand epoch in the life of Miller. He had laid the foundation of a habit of virtuous self-denial and decision of character that was certain to bear precious fruits. In time the healthy invigorating nature of his daily labour told favourably upon him. All masons seem proud of their calling. We recollect Allan Cunningham one day, long after he had abandoned the mallet and chisel, and was a prosperous man in Chantrey's studio, besides being a popular author, writing "Mason" after his name in an album. "I am sure as to that," he said, "but not sure as to my right to any other designation." Hugh Miller was equally determined to be a mason amidst all his literary honours and distinctions. He stood up stoutly for his order, and went about Edinburgh to the last in coarse homespun attire and a grey plaid. Removing to the Scottish capital for employment as a journeyman mason, Miller saw more of the habits of the working men, and had to fight his way among rather noisy and intemperate associates. He found that mere intelligence formed no guard

amongst them against intemperance or licentiousness, but it did form a not ineffectual protection against what are peculiarly the mean vices—such as theft and the grosser and more creeping forms of untruthfulness and dishonesty. A strike among the masons took place at this time, but the men having no money on hand, all broke down in about a week. "It is the wilder spirits," he says, "that dictate the conditions; and pitching their demands high, they begin usually by enforcing acquiescence in them on the quieter and more moderate among their companions. They are tyrants to their fellows ere they come into collision with their masters"—a truth which all recent strikes has abundantly illustrated. Burns has said that he often courted the society of men known by the ordinary phrase of *blackguards*, and that he had in not a few instances found them possessed of some of the noblest virtues. Miller was thrown into similar company. A labouring man may select his friends, but cannot choose his work-fellows; "and my experience of this class," adds Hugh, "has been very much the reverse of that of Burns. I have usually found their virtues of a merely theatric cast, and their vices real; much assumed generosity in some instances, but a callousness of feeling and meanness of spirit lying concealed beneath." High as Burns's authority is on questions of life and conduct, most men will agree with Miller. Men of the stamp alluded to are often ready to part with money if it does not directly interfere with their immediate gratification, and have an impulsive generosity of sentiment. But "noble virtues" require prudence, self-control, regard for the feelings of others, and steady intellectual culture; and these cannot long co-exist with folly and sensuality. One must overpower the other—as in the forest the oak and the brush-wood rise together, and either the tree or the parasite soon asserts the superiority.

Returning to his native district from Edinburgh, Miller ventured on the publication of a volume of poems. He hesitated to give his name, but entitled them "Poems by a Journeyman Stonemason." The usual development of self-taught genius is in verse. Admiration is followed by imitation, and the sentiment and description of poetry appear easy, while the learning, the reasoning, and analysis of good prose seem hopelessly unattainable. Miller's pieces, in some instances, rise above mediocrity, and are always informed with fine feeling; but there is much more real poetry in his prose works—infinite more originality, fancy, and picturesqueness of language. His first attempts at publication were made in contributions to the *Inverness Courier*; and a series of letters on the herring fishing (afterwards republished as a pamphlet) attracted great attention. They are admirably written, showing Miller's happy observant faculty in full play, and are couched in fine Addisonian English. Their author was now too conspicuous to be employed much longer as an ordinary mason, or even cutting inscriptions on tombstones, in which he peculiarly excelled—as did also Telford, the engineer, in his early and obscure days. He made a round of visits to local patrons and friends, and carried on geological researches on the coast lines of the Moray Frith. The ancient deposits of the lias, with their mollusca, belemnites, ammonites, and nautili, overran the province of the Muses; and a nomenclature very different from poetical diction had to be studied. Theological controversy also broke in; and, as Mr. Miller was always stout on the score of polemics, and, withal, sufficiently pugnacious, he mingled freely in local Church disputes, the forerunners of a national ecclesiastical struggle in which he was also to take a prominent part. The Reform Bill gave fresh scope for activity, and Miller was zealous on the popular side. He was elected a member of the Town Council of Cromarty, and attended at least one meeting, at which, he says, the only serious piece of business was the councillors having clubbed a penny each, in the utter lack of town funds, to defray a ninepenny postage! This was certainly a pure Corporation, and should be exempt from the application of Chancellor Thurlow's sarcasm, that Corporations had neither bodies to be kicked nor souls to be punished, and so practised all manner of iniquity.

It is probable that Mr. Miller's interest in borough politics was a little cooled at this time, by a new influence that began to gain ground upon him. When working in the churchyard, chiselling his "In Memoriam," he used to have visitors, and among them were several intellectual ladies, whom he also met at tea-parties, and conducted occasionally through the wild scenes and fossiliferous treasures of the burn of Bathie. Meditations among the tombs led to love among the rocks, and geology itself had no discoveries or deposits hard enough to shut out the new and tender formation. Mr. Miller was overpowered; and circumstances ultimately sanctioned his union with the youngest, fairest, and most accomplished of his lady visitors. Lydia Fraser—the "Dearest Lydia" of his last sad tragic farewell note—became Mrs. Miller, and Mr. Miller himself exchanged the life of a mason for that of accountant in a banking establishment in Cromarty. Soon after this he published his "Scenes and Legends of the North of Scotland," a work remarkable for the variety of its traditional lore and the elegance of its style.

Fifteen years a stonemason, and about six years a bank accountant, Mr. Miller's next move was into that position for which he was best adapted, and in which he spent the remainder of his life. The ecclesiastical party in Scotland then known as the Non-Intrusionists—so called because they were opposed to any clergyman being "intruded" on a parish by the lay patron against the wishes of the people—projected a newspaper to advocate their views: all Mr. Miller's feelings and predilections ran in the same direction; and he had sufficiently evinced his literary talents and his zeal in the cause by a published Letter to Lord Brougham on the Auchterarder case, and by a pamphlet entitled "The Whiggism of the Old School." In 1840 he was appointed editor of the *Witness*, a bi-weekly newspaper, of which he afterwards became the chief proprietor. In this periodical many of his works were first published. Geology became his favourite pursuit; and his treatise, "The Old Red Sandstone; or, a New Walk in an Old Field," stamped him with high and world-wide reputation. His subsequent publications, "The First Impressions of England and its People," "Footprints of the Creator" (in reply to the "Vestiges of Creation"), and "My Schools and Schoolmasters"—an autobiography of singular interest and value—are too well known to require any detailed description or panegyric.

In all Mr. Miller's works there is a marked individuality of character. A strong family likeness pervades the whole of the series. Whatever be his subject, his personal feelings and experience enter largely into the composition; and though this peculiarity induces frequent digressions, and often leads to remote and unexpected illustrations, the interest of the reader is rarely suffered to flag, because the author appears before us in native truth and originality, and is a master of description. We follow him with curiosity and delight through the windings and recesses of his solitary walks by the sea-side; his early reading and reflection, even in the mason's *booth*; and his studies in natural history, among the rocks and caves of the Moray Frith. It is a great thing in these days to get an original and true man, who puts his mind fairly to the mind of his reader, and wears no mask. And Hugh Miller was this in all his writings. He conceived that there were few of the natural sciences that did not lie as open to the working men of Britain and America as geology did to himself. The best schools are the schools of Nature, free to all; and so he entered upon his teaching, not with didactic formality, but by telling, as Rousseau professed to do in his "Confessions," what he had done, what he had thought, and what he had been. Few men have combined in the same proportion the habit of patient investigation and analysis and the talent for popular and picturesque writing. Sir Humphry Davy is the only instance among modern authors of a scientific cast; but perhaps Goldsmith would, in many respects, be a better parallel. In the art of unfolding and embellishing the truths of science—clothing the anatomy of Nature with graceful drapery—Miller wanted only a little condensation and a severer taste to rival Goldsmith; while, in extent of knowledge and comprehension in at least one science, and in depth of moral feeling and justness of thinking, he must rank with the first intellects of the age. He taught this great lesson to his fellow-men, that "life itself is a school, and nature always a fresh study; and that the man who keeps his eyes and his mind open will always find fitting, though it may be hard, schoolmasters to speed him on his life-long education." His death no less eloquently proclaims this truth, that even knowledge must not be pursued too ardently and unremittingly; that the brain, like the bodily functions, must not be overtasked, and that to disregard the laws of nature is to induce irretrievable calamity and ruin.

DESTRUCTION OF ENGLISH PROPERTY AT ULEABORG.

On the 1st of June, 1854, an English squadron under Admiral Plummer, consisting of the *Leopard*, *Odin*, and two other steamers, having made its appearance before the town of Uleaborg, in the Gulf of Finland, a deputy was sent from the town with a flag of truce to inquire what the Admiral intended to do? The answer returned was to the following effect:—"The English Admiral will neither injure nor destroy private individuals nor their property; he only intends to destroy fortifications, defences, and property belonging to the Russian Emperor. As long as the inhabitants remain quiet in their houses they will be protected, but, if they assist the Russian troops, then they will be treated as enemies. The English Admiral wishes that women and children be sent out of the town." The deputy having stated to Admiral Plummer that there was neither imperial property nor fortifications of any kind, the Admiral answered that the warehouses would be overhauled to see if they contained any contraband of war. The town contained a considerable number of ships building, and a large stock of timber, deals, spars, boards, and tar, all of which would be destroyed. The deputy explained that all these were private property, intended for exportation to England. A great quantity of the property belonged to Englishmen who had already paid for it, and the ships were, to a large extent, built by Uleaborg merchants with money advanced by England. The Admiral said he was sorry for that, but he must do his duty. If his countrymen possessed anything there, and that property was destroyed, they could apply to their own Government for compensation. On the 3rd of June the whole of the ships, timber, tar, and other articles intended for export, were burned by order of Admiral Plummer.

Such is the Russian account of the destruction of property at Uleaborg. On the other hand it is alleged that the burning of property could not be prevented, because the town refused to deliver up certain gun-boats and other vessels of war. This the Russians deny, however, as no such vessels had ever been built. In corroboration of this statement the following document was signed by a number of merchants residing in Uleaborg:—

An article appeared in the *Economist* of the 17th of June, 1854, in which among other things, Admiral Plummer defends his incendiary exploits in Uleaborg and Brahestad. It says that he really did the Russian Government some harm, by taking some gun-boats in these towns; and he denies the purposeless destruction of private property which was in no manner meant to be used for war. The merchants of Uleaborg, who sign this declaration on oath, say that there has been nothing contraband for the Russian Government, neither were gun-boats or other vessels of war built, or meant to be built; neither was there in the town the least property belonging to the Russian Government—fortification, necessities of war, nor military nor other means of defence of whatsoever name it may be; and therefore all the property destroyed by the Admiral was private, intended for exportation on the merchants' account, chiefly to England, for which they had partly received advances, and for a portion of which they had been entirely paid, and which had remained from the last year. Of all of which the Admiral had been informed, but to no purpose.

In the town there was certainly a school-house belonging to the Finnish Government which the Admiral thought proper to spare from destruction; but a Finnish pilotage and a pilot-house at the quay, worth about £15 sterling, he burnt, besides the merchants' magazines and supplies for exportation.

There was no other property belonging to the Government in the town; and with respect to the gun-boats, there has not been any here at least these forty years.

The twenty Cossacks who are generally stationed in the town at the disposal of the Governor were then away, of which the officers sent on shore assured themselves by searching their house, which a poor family had hired.

(Signed)—H. E. Hockert, W. Bergettom, Ferd. Granberg, J. A. Fellman, Gust. Bergbono, Commerceirid, and Danish Consul, L. A. Lofgren, J. W. Snellman, Geon., O. M. Kimmman, L. Candelin, M. E. Klingvall, F. J. Franzén, H. Hedmanson.

Myself a witness to this awful misfortune, I can well bear witness to the truth of all that is said here, and also verify the above signatures of the most respectable merchants of this town.—N. T. A. NAMER, Consul of the free Hanseatic State Lubeck, also Royal Swedish and Norwegian Vice-Consul. Uleaborg, July 16, 1854.

A CLEVER SWINDLER.

On the 6th of June, 1855, an application was made to the London and Westminster Bank, by a person who called himself James Silvery, for a letter of credit for £10, payable at the Cape of Good Hope Bank, Cape Town, to the credit of Richard Rowe. As the transaction was in the regular way of business the letter was granted; but, so far as has yet been ascertained, no application for payment has ever been made, either at the Cape of Good Hope or at London. What object Mr. James Silvery had in view when he invested his £10 in that venture may be surmised from the following narrative.

On the 24th of August, 1855, the ship *Lightning*, which had sailed from London on the 7th July, arrived at Cape Town, having, among other passengers on board, a gentleman calling himself Edward Horace Montefiore, a near relation, as was confidently stated, of a gentleman whose name is well known to the financial world. On the 7th of July, the day after the arrival of the *Lightning*, Mr. E. H. Montefiore, who resolved to lose no time, left his card at the Cape of Good Hope Bank, accompanied by the following letter addressed to the directors:—

(Special.)

"London and Westminster Bank, London, June 8, 1855.

"Gentlemen,—I am desired by the managing directors of this bank to introduce to you the bearer, Mr. Edward H. Montefiore, who purposes spending a year's leave of absence from the East in travelling. Mr. Montefiore has with him draughts of his own friends, with the endorsement of this establishment, and it is particularly requested that you will grant him any assistance, pecuniary or otherwise, that he may require.

I am, &c., W. WELDON, pro General Manager.

"To the Directors of the Cape of Good Hope Bank, Cape Town."

On receiving this important despatch one of the directors of the bank immediately called upon Mr. Montefiore, at his hotel, for the purpose of ascertaining what the prospects of the European money market were, and of picking up such other scraps of information as might be gleaned from the conversation of a capitalist fresh from head-quarters. So far as we have heard, nothing was done in the way of draughts for some time. Whether the Cape Town bank director was dubious as to the identity of the Montefiore, or whether the adventurer was anxious to show that he was not in a hurry for assistance, no attempt was made to draw upon the bank till the arrival of the following letter, which was received by the next mail.

(Special.)

"London and Westminster Bank, London, June 9, 1855.

"Gentlemen,—Confirming my despatches per steam-ship *Fiery Cross*, by order of the directors, I have now to inform you that a letter of credit, No. 998, dated 6th inst., has been mislaid by or stolen from the party (Richard Rowe, Esq.) in whose favour it was drawn. You will, therefore, in case of presentation to you, withhold payment thereof until the presenter thereof shall be fully identified. I am also directed to inclose the duplicate of a special letter given yesterday to Mr. Edward H. Montefiore, who carries drafts of his own friends on China to the sum of £5300 sterling (viz., £5300) endorsed by this bank; for those, as well as for Mr. Montefiore personally, I have to claim particular attention.

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

J. W. WELDON, pro General Manager.

"To the Directors of the Cape of Good Hope Bank, Cape Town."

The receipt of this business-like missive settled all doubt as to the character of Mr. Montefiore. The directors of the Cape of Good Hope Bank at once furnished the young man with a cheque-book, and he continued to draw upon that establishment at a very liberal rate. By the 5th of September he had drawn altogether about £800, and there is no saying how much more he would have obtained had not suspicion been excited in the minds of the directors, who began to institute inquiries which led to the conviction that they had been regularly victimised by Mr. James Silvery and his confederates.

Great pains were taken by the Attorney-General at the Cape to make himself master of the whole of the details connected with this deeply-planned scheme, by which the Colonial Bank had been plundered, and steps were taken to commence a prosecution there against Mr. Montefiore. It was found, however, that great expense, inconvenience, and delays would have been entailed by the necessity of searching for witnesses from this country. The more prudent course resolved upon was to send the young man home. Mr. Montefiore was, therefore, warned that unless he left the Cape proceedings would commence, which hint he instantly took, and having sailed for England he was arrested on his arrival in this country. On Tuesday last he was brought up at the Mansion-house, on the charge of having forged bills of exchange to the amount of £5300, and also with having forged two letters of credit upon the London and Westminster Bank. Mr. J. W. Weldon, who was examined with reference to the latter case, stated that the documents produced were not in his writing. The signature was a bad imitation of his. As the principal witnesses were not forthcoming the prisoner was remanded till Friday.

The Edinburgh meeting, in support of extending the Scotch franchise, has been highly successful. Dr. Begg, the leader of the movement, was present, and was supported by Mr. Cowan, M.P., Mr. Adam Black, M.P., Mr. D. McLaren, and other influential gentlemen. The resolutions were all carried with enthusiasm.



THE HON. EAST INDIA COMPANY'S FLEET OF TRANSPORTS AND WAR-STEAMERS IN BOMBAY HARBOUR, PREVIOUS TO THEIR DEPARTURE FOR THE PERSIAN GULF.

THE PERSIAN EXPEDITION IN THE GULF OF BOMBAY.

THE Persian Expedition—of which we give an Illustration above, as it appeared in the Gulf of Bombay previous to its sailing for Bassadore—consisted of twenty-six sailing transports, or an aggregate of 24,000 tons; of three of the Peninsular and Oriental Company's steam-ships, the *Chusan*, *Singapore*, and *Pottinger*; besides three larger vessels of the Bombay Steam Navigation Company, of an aggregate burden in all of 30,000 tons, at a freightage charge of above a thousand pounds a day. The men-of-war were nine first-class steamers—the *Punjab*, *Assaye*, *Feroze*, *Ajdaha*, *Semiramis*, *Victoria*, and *Hugh Lindsay*; the steam-tender *Napier* and steam-yacht *Goolanar*; the sloops *Elphinstone* and *Olive*, and the brigs *Euphrates* and *Tigris*—or twelve vessels in all, the total fleet amounting to forty sail.

Up to the 3rd of December our latest date from Bombay, no intelligence had been received of the Persian Expedition. After touching at

Bassadore, it was understood that the fleet would sail for the Island of Karak, an important and convenient place for operations against the ports of the mainland in general, and Bushire in particular. Bushire would probably be summoned to surrender; and, in the event of a refusal, would have its defences shattered by the gun-boats of the fleet, and be taken forcible possession of.

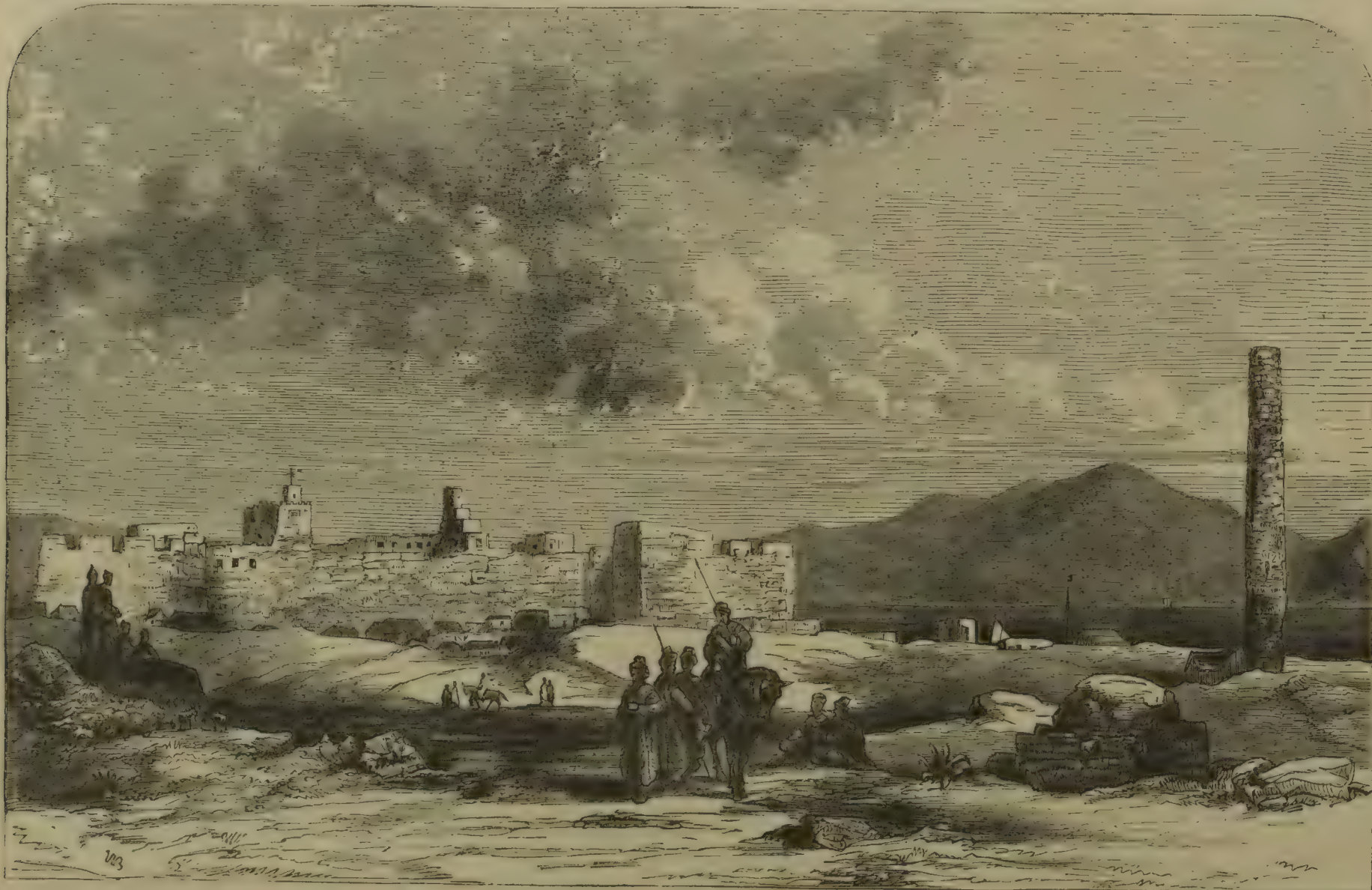
PORTUGUESE FORT ON THE ISLAND OF ORMUZ, IN THE PERSIAN GULF.

THE Island of Ormuz, situated about twenty-two miles from the port of Gombroon, or Bunder Abbas, is the property of the Imaum of Muscat. The Sketch shows the old Portuguese Fort, which stands on the extremity of a sandy spit. At the period of its erection it must have been of considerable strength and service, for it commands the only part of the coast where good anchorage is obtained. Since the

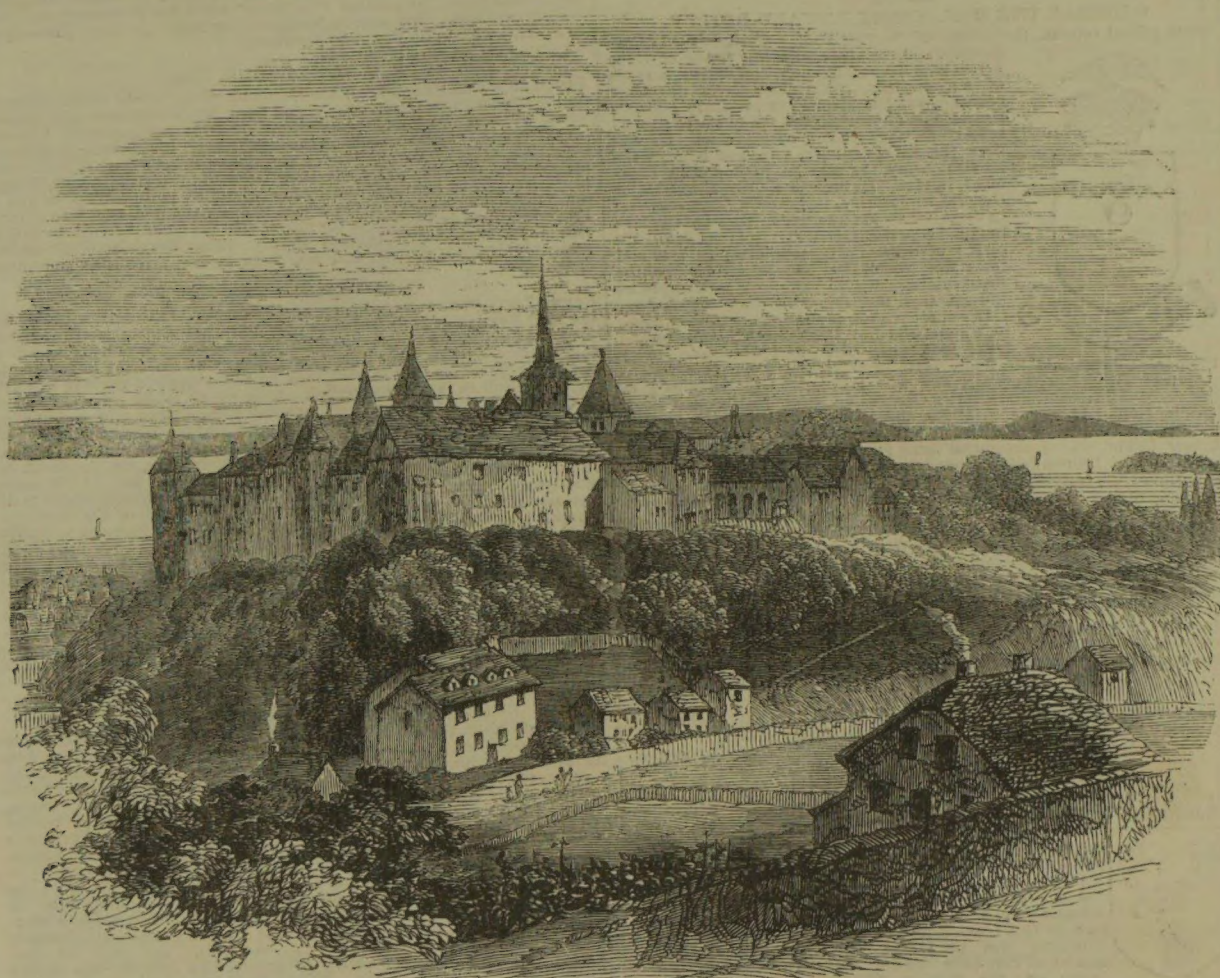
decline of the Portuguese as a great maritime nation the Fort has gone to ruin; but even now it is considered of sufficient importance to serve for the residence of the Sheikh or Governor. Its massive walls, mounted with curious old cannon, render it an object of interest to the traveller. It is occasionally visited by the East India Company's vessels of war. The island is valuable from the immense masses of rocksalt which are found in various parts of it. A black sand is found on the beach which is much used in the public offices of India for drying ink, in the manner we here employ blotting-paper. The Persian expedition will pass this island if it rendezvous, as proposed, at Bassadore.

There are on Ormuz several other ruins of Portuguese construction; but this Fort is the most important one. The climate at Ormuz—and, in fact, throughout the Persian Gulf—is excessively hot during eight months of the year.

Our Engraving is from a Sketch by an officer of the E.I.C. brig of war *Euphrates*.



OLD PORTUGUESE FORT AT ORMUZ, IN THE PERSIAN GULF.



THE CASTLE OF NEUCHÂTEL, FROM A RECENT SKETCH.

THE NEUCHÂTEL AFFAIR.

THE abortive insurrection at Neuchâtel, which has involved Switzerland in a deadly quarrel with Prussia, broke out on the 2nd of September last. On that day two proclamations were issued by the insurgents, which left no doubt as to the real character of their design. One of them was superscribed with the well-known motto of the *Kreuz Zeitung* of Berlin—"Onwards, with God, for King, and Fatherland;" and ran thus:—

Inhabitants of Neuchâtel,—The hour of your deliverance at length has now been sounded. Let the cry of "Long live the King!" be your watchword. Let the faithful fly to arms. I declare the territory of this principality in a state of siege. Each commune is to provide for the immediate establishment of a committee, which shall exercise its authority in the King's name, and shall send notice to the castle of Neuchâtel when it enters upon the discharge of its functions.

The Commander-in-Chief, Colonel Count FREDERIC DE POURTALES.

The other proclamation was to the following effect:—

La Sagne, Sept. 2.

Long live the King! The Royal banner again waves over the castle of our Princes. People of Neuchâtel, let us return thanks to God for this. Let the faithful now rally about me.

The Commandant of the first arrondissement,

Lieut.-Colonel DE MEURON.

The insurgents belonged almost exclusively to the communes of La Sagne, Les Ponts, La Brévine, and La Chaux du Milieu, which were

known to be the stronghold of the Prussian party." So far as can be ascertained, the conspiracy was known to the Prussian Government.

A portfolio belonging to the Count de Pourtales fell into the hands of the Swiss containing letters from several persons at Berlin, and a list of those who could be depended upon, in the event of a rising. The plan of the Royalist insurgents was to seize the towns of Neuchâtel, Locle, and Chaux de Fonds, by a *coup de main*, and hold them until the arrival of Federal troops, to whom they would have made no resistance, but would have at once laid down their arms. This done, Prussia would have hastened to represent to Europe that the Confederation had overturned by violence the Government of the legitimate Prince, and would have gained a convenient basis for action. The promptitude of the Republicans defeated this arrangement. The Neuchâtelois themselves reversed the Royalist resolution, and left to the Federal power only the duty of protecting the cause of re-established order.

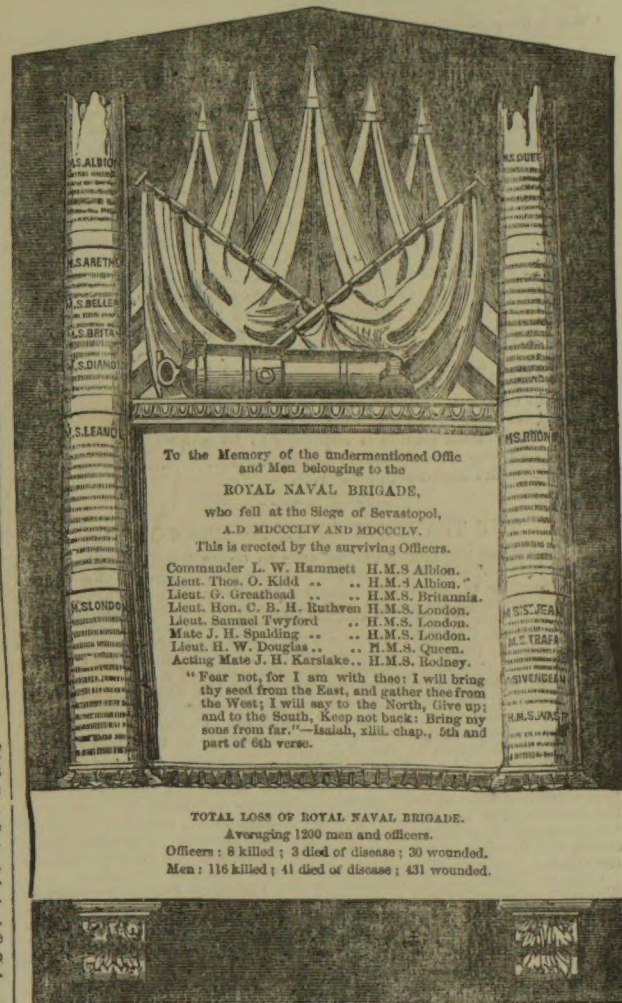
We engrave a picturesque View of Neuchâtel, from a Sketch by a Correspondent. The town is built upon the steep slope of the Jura Mountains, and along the narrow shelf of level ground between the hills and the lake. The town and its neighbourhood has many attractions: the view of the Alps from the heights of the Jura is magnificent; and Neuchâtel, with its picturesque old castle, its numerous white country-houses, its vine-clad hills, and its blue expanse of lake, is a scene over which the tourist loves to linger. The old castle on the height has been partly converted into Government offices. It was originally the residence of the French Princes of Neuchâtel of the

house of Châlons (Longueville), who were, at least nominally, the sovereigns of this little state, literally a principality, with Republican institutions, yet retaining many feudal tenures.

The church, adjoining the castle, is a Gothic building of the twelfth century; but the east end, in the round style, is older.

MEMORIAL TO THE ROYAL NAVAL BRIGADE.

THIS characteristic memorial tablet has just been erected in the monumental chambers of the Kensal-green Cemetery by the surviving officers of the Royal Naval Brigade, to the memory of the officers and men of that Brigade who fell in the trenches at the siege of Sebastopol. The location of the tablet has been dictated by a circumstance which is highly honourable to those concerned. It appears that the officers of the Naval Brigade wished to include the names of their humbler comrades, and by so doing were prevented from placing the memorial in either of our cathedrals or national establishments.



To the Memory of the undermentioned Officers and Men belonging to the
ROYAL NAVAL BRIGADE,
who fell at the Siege of Sebastopol,
A.D. MDCCCLIV AND MDCCCLV.
This is erected by the surviving Officers.

Commander L. W. Hammett H.M.S. Albion.
Lieut. Thos. O. Kidd H.M.S. Albion.
Lieut. G. Greathhead H.M.S. Britannia.
Lieut. Hon. C. B. M. Ruthven H.M.S. London.
Lieut. Samuel Twyford H.M.S. London.
Mate J. H. Spidling H.M.S. London.
Lieut. H. W. Douglas H.M.S. Queen.
Acting Mate J. H. Karslake.. H.M.S. Rodney.
"Fear not, for I am with thee: I will bring
thy seed from the East, and gather thee from
the West; I will say to the North, Give up;
and to the South, Keep not back: Bring my
sons from far."—Isaiah, xlii. chap., 5th and
part of 6th verse.

TOTAL LOSS OF ROYAL NAVAL BRIGADE.

Averaging 1200 men and officers.
Officers: 8 killed; 3 died of disease; 30 wounded.
Men: 116 killed; 41 died of disease; 431 wounded.

MONUMENT JUST ERECTED IN KENSAL-GREEN CEMETERY TO OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE ROYAL NAVAL BRIGADE WHO FELL AT SEBASTOPOL.

Accordingly the Tablet has been erected in the Kensal-green Cemetery; and, in addition to the names of the officers, it bears those of the men who fell from the fire of the enemy.

The tablet, which measures 10 feet 6 inches high, by 4 feet 6 inches wide, has been executed by Messrs. Gaffin, of Regent-street, in white



SCENE OF THE LATE EXPLOSION AT RHODES.—SKETCHED BY A CORRESPONDENT.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

marble, and is erected on a site which has been gratuitously presented for the purpose by the Kensal-green Cemetery Company. The inscription-tablet is surmounted by a group of tents, and is flanked by two broken mast, upon which are inscribed the names of the men, which are as follow:—

H.M.S. *Albatross*.—W. J. Smith, R. Smith, R. Wallace, J. Wood, W. Miller, M. Collins.
H.M.S. *Arcturion*.—M. Blakeney, J. Brown.
H.M.S. *Bellerophon*.—F. Vincent, J. Wells.
H.M.S. *Britannia*.—W. Taylor, J. Harris.
H.M.S. *Diamond*.—R. Churchill, A. Knott, W. Lakeman, J. Rodman.
H.M.S. *Leander*.—S. Burrell, W. Ayling, J. Nichols, J. Maglin, J. Arnold, J. Branchley.
D. Abson, J. Bradwell, W. Pasley, C. McLean, G. Malone, W. Lawson, J. Jones, T. Butcher, J. Green, J. Mullet, P. Flynn, G. Gamble, T. Pascoe, E. Leland, G. Case, W. Wickey, J. Tobin, J. Austin, D. M. Carley, J. Hardy.
H.M.S. *London*.—R. Garnett, T. Anderson, F. Mackin, R. Gardner, J. Stacey, L. Decker, J. Fry, R. Cooper, S. Grant, W. Thomas, T. Kewray, J. Gregg, W. Fleming, J. Mulcahy, W. P. Godding, J. McCavey.
H.M.S. *Queen*.—T. Bush, A. Burcher, L. McConachie, W. Channon, J. Simmonds, R. Laverick, J. Burroughs, T. Dudgeon, J. Good, J. Davidson, N. Medlin, W. Southey, J. Trim, R. O'Brien, B. Taylor, H. Hill, P. Edy, T. Corbilly, J. Hewitt, S. Welsh, J. Medlin, F. Mahoney, J. Coffin, H. Jones, J. Lankhan, J. Irving, W. H. Harris, J. Whitfield, W. McDonald, R. Miller.
H.M.S. *Rodney*.—A. McBurney, J. Coffey, J. Fallows, E. Hickey, E. Gordon, W. Sheybeck, J. Reid, W. Davidson, R. Quin, J. Eunis, J. Murphy, H. Wackerell, G. Meldon, C. Prince, M. Keownes, T. Prince, J. Upton, G. Clayton, D. Carney, E. Tucker.
H.M.S. *St. Jean d'Acree*.—H. Blyth.
H.M.S. *Trafalgar*.—C. Willing, J. Coleman.
H.M.S. *Vengeance*.—W. Tait.
H.M.S. *Wasp*.—J. Glanville, S. Turner, J. Woodford, W. White.

EFFECTS OF THE LATE EXPLOSION AT RHODES.

An accredited Correspondent at Alexandria has favoured us with the accompanying Sketch of the remains of the principal part of the once-beautiful town of Rhodes, in the island of that name in the Mediterranean, taken by him three weeks ago, just after the awful explosion of gunpowder had taken place in the Church of St. John, in that town. On the 2nd of November there was a tremendous earthquake at Rhodes, which partially destroyed the town; and, on the 6th, 12,000 pounds of powder, which had been placed, by order of the Turkish Government, in the Church of St. John (that edifice being built of stone, and therefore not being liable to take fire), was ignited by a thunderbolt or the lightning during a storm, and blew up, destroying with it the palace of the Grand Master (the building partially remaining on the right of the Sketch) and two hundred houses built of stone, the fragments of which descended on the other parts of the town, and more or less destroyed it; hardly anything remaining of it except some few houses, some cottages, and the fortifications seaward. Fortunately, the three towers on the sea, one of which is very pretty, remain uninjured.

The figure in the Sketch is supposed to be standing on the edge of the hole made by the explosion, looking into it. The arch on the left is the end of the Rue des Chevaliers.

THE TRANSFER OF THE "RESOLUTE."

On Tuesday last the final handing over to Great Britain of the Arctic discovery-ship *Resolute* was effected, considerable interest being excited at Portsmouth by the event. During the early part of that day the American colours, side by side with those of this country, hung from the peak of the stout old ship. At a quarter to one o'clock Captain Seymour, Flag-Captain to the Commander-in-Chief, went on board the *Resolute* to receive her on the part of the nation. Mr. Penn, the Master of the *Victory*; Mr. Burdwood, Second Master of a party of seamen and a corporal's guard of Royal Marines from the same ship, also went on board. Capt. Hartstein now ordered his crew to take up their proper positions, the starboard watch forward and the port watch aft. Captain Seymour, after spending a few minutes with Captain Hartstein in the latter's cabin, returned on deck, and, as the dockyard clock struck one, the flagship *Victory* hoisted the United States stars and stripes at her main, and fired a salute to that flag of 21 guns. Whilst the salute was being fired Captain Hartstein ordered the American colours to be hauled down on board the *Resolute*, and the union-jack then floated alone, whilst at her main the pennant of a British naval officer was hoisted. The salute being ended, and the change of colours effected, the crew of the *Resolute* manned the rigging, and gave three hearty cheers, as a return for the salute.

Captain Hartstein, surrounded by the Chevalier Pappalardo (United States Vice-Consul at this port) and the American officers, then addressing Captain Seymour, said:—"Sir, the closing scene of my most pleasant and important mission has now to be performed. And permit me to hope that, long after every timber in her sturdy frame shall have perished, the remembrance of the old *Resolute* will be cherished by the people of the respective nations. I now, with a pride totally at variance with our professional ideas, strike my flag, and to you, Sir, give up this ship." Captain Seymour replied:—"I am sure, Sir, that this graceful act on the part of the United States towards this country, and the graceful manner in which it has been performed by yourself, Sir, and the other officers of the ship, will ever live in the memory of the people of England."

This concluded the ceremony of the delivery of the vessel to this country; the Queen herself having, it will be recollected, personally received the ship on her visit to it at Cowes. The *Sprightly* steamer, which has been in close attendance on the officers and crew of the *Resolute* since her arrival at Portsmouth, was lying alongside, with steam up, all the officers' and seamen's baggage being already on board.

The crew of the *Resolute* then left her, and went on board the *Sprightly*. Captain Hartstein and the other officers following, after bidding a cordial farewell to Captain Seymour, the other British officers left on board the *Resolute*, and the few civilians present. Prior to this, however, a bumper of champagne had been most enthusiastically drunk to Captain Hartstein and the other officers and crew of the *Resolute*. The final abandonment of the vessel seemed to create some emotion on the part of the officers and men who had brought her home, all of whom appeared to feel that they had only been performing a work of love and pleasure, and which had been amply requited by the kindness and hospitality with which they had been received in England.

PRINCELY CREDULITY.—Considerable amusement has been produced in Paris lately by an instance of credulity in a very distinguished member of the *salons*, such as one seldom encounters. The lady in question is the Princess de Montclair, who is related to several of the reigning houses in Germany. The facts of the case, as related by *Galignani*, are to the following effect:—"A man named Calté, a commission-agent, and a woman named Leclere, a fortune-teller, were brought before the Tribunal of Correctional Police, on a charge of swindling. The complaint was made by the Princess A. de Montclair, who, it appeared, was in the habit of having her fortune told by the female prisoner. Being engaged in a lawsuit, the Princess asked the woman to recommend some honest man of business with whom she could advise, and the fortune-teller sent her Calté. The Princess confided her affairs to him, and after a while he induced her, in return for his services, to undertake to settle on him a sum of 2000*fr.* a year for life, and to give the like sum to his wife and children after his death. It was alleged that this undertaking had been obtained by a moral pressure on the Princess, which amounted to swindling, and that the fortune-teller had joined Calté in exercising it. In support of the charge, various extracts from a diary which the Princess had been in the habit of keeping were read. They showed that the Princess considered that Calté's services were indispensable for the arrangement of her affairs, although she thought the remuneration he exacted for them was exorbitant; they showed also that she had consulted the fortune-teller as to what she was to do, and that the latter had made her believe that the cards she consulted represented that she must do all that Calté wanted. The man, in his defence, said that the promise of 2000*fr.* a year for life was not only for what he had done, but what he was to do for the Princess, and that it was really not too much for his services, he having given up all his time to her, acted as her agent, and her lawyer, and drawn up a memoir on her suit for the Court. The woman said that she had recommended Calté to the Princess because she thought that he was an honest and intelligent man, and would suit her; but that she had not exercised any undue influence over her, and had never told her anything except what the cards said. The Princess declared that she had only consented to enter into the undertaking referred to because she thought there was no other way of securing the man's services, and because the woman had told her that she must do so, according to the cards. The advocate of the prisoners contended that the charge of swindling was not made out in law, and he alleged that the real object of the prosecution, which was instituted, not by the Princess, but by members of her family, was to obtain a proof that the Princess was insane, such proof to be hereafter brought forward in support of a demand for her interdiction, which had been presented to one of the Courts. The Tribunal, finding that the Princess had not actually paid any sum of money, decided that the proof of swindling was not complete, and it acquitted the defendants. The mother of the lady (a Princess of Saxe-Coburg) was wife of the Prince of Savoy Carignan, and mother of the late King Charles Albert, and of the Archduchess Renier of Austria. The Princess was born of her mother's second marriage with the Prince de Montclair. The lawsuit in which the Princess is engaged relates to her mother's fortune, which in Austria alone is estimated at 3,000,000 francs, and the greater part of which is claimed by her father.

THE PERSIAN EMBASSY TO FRANCE.—A private letter from Constantinople of the 18th ult. says that Ferukh-Khan, the Persian Ambassador Extraordinary, was to leave for France at the beginning of January, at which period the Mediterranean is totally free from the influence of the equinox. The same letter states that Ferukh-Khan, after having transmitted to his Sovereign the demands of England, proposes to continue negotiations in Paris and London, and that he has asked for instructions from his Court with that view.

OBITUARY OF EMINENT PERSONS.

GENERAL THE HON. HENRY EDWARD BUTLER.

This gallant veteran, the Colonel of the 55th Foot, a distinguished officer himself, and famous also as the father of three heroes who have all recently, and within a space of six months, given their lives to their country, was the second son of Henry Thomas, second Earl of Carrick, and the uncle of Somerset Arthur, the fifth and present Earl. He was born the 3rd December, 1780, and entered the British Army, as Ensign in the 27th Regiment, in 1800. He became a Colonel and Major-General in January, 1837, and a Lieut.-General in June, 1854. He was made Colonel of the 55th in 1855, being transferred to it from the 94th. He served with the Portuguese army in 1810 and 1811; was wounded at Busaco, and received the Peninsular medal with two clasps for Egypt and Busaco. Gen. Butler married, first, the 6th Jan., 1812, Jane, daughter of Clotworthy Gowan, Esq., by whom (who died the 30th Aug., 1834) he had issue four sons. The eldest of these, Henry Thomas, a Captain 55th Foot, born in 1813, was Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General in the East, and was killed fighting valourously at Inkerman. The second son, Charles George, a Captain in the 56th Foot, born in 1827, died from the fatigue and effects of the Crimean war on the 18th Dec., 1854. The fourth son was the defender of Silistria, James Armar Butler, whose name and fame form part of the history of the late struggle. He was but seven-and-twenty when, with Major Nasmyth, he achieved the memorable and victorious preservation of the Turkish fortress, and died there of his wounds in 1854. One other son, the third, alone survives of General Butler's first marriage—viz., the Rev. Pierce Butler, who is the heir presumptive of his first cousin, the present Earl of Carrick. General Butler married, secondly, the 29th Nov., 1826, Frances Maulever, second daughter of John Parker Toulson, Esq., and by her (who died the 27th June, 1844) had issue a son and a daughter, who survive him. General Butler departed this life on the 7th ult. at Paris; the gallant General had the pain of seeing his three children die before him; but he might well say, as spoke his great ancestor, the Duke of Ormonde, when suffering a similar sorrow, that he would rather have his dead sons than any living sons in Christendom.

GENERAL MILMAN.

FRANCIS MILES MILMAN, a Lieutenant-General and Colonel of the 82nd Foot, was born on the 22nd August, 1783. He was the second son of Sir Francis Milman, first Baronet, of Levaton, in Woodland, Devonshire, Physician to George III., and was brother of the present Baronet, and of the very Rev. Henry Hart Milman, D.D., Dean of St. Paul's, the distinguished scholar, poet, and reviewer. General Milman entered the British Army as an Ensign in the Coldstream Guards, in December, 1800; he became a Colonel in July, 1830; a Major-General in November, 1841; and a Lieutenant-General in 1851. He was made Colonel of the 82nd Foot, the 25th November, 1850. Milman was Aide-de-Camp to Major-General C. Crawford in 1808; was present at the battles of Roleia and Vimiera; was on General Crawford's staff on the retreat of Sir John Moore, and was engaged in the battle on the heights of Lugo, and at Corunna. Subsequently joining his regiment at Lisbon, he was at the passage of the Douro and at the capture of Oporto, and was severely wounded at Talavera, being only saved from being burnt on the field of battle by a private soldier of the Coldstreams. He was a prisoner at the hospital of Talavera, and was detained in France till 1814. The gallant General had the war medal with four clasps. General Milman married, the 8th March, 1817, Maria Margaretta, eldest daughter of Sir Charles Morgan, Bart., of Tredegar, and has had issue seven sons and two daughters—all of whom, except one son, survive him. The eldest of the sons is Lieut.-Colonel Egerton Milman, of the 37th; the second son, Henry Salusbury Milman, is a Fellow of All Souls' College, Oxford; and the four other sons are military officers. The General's eldest brother, the present Baronet, Sir William George Milman, married Miss Elizabeth Henry Alderson, sister of Mr. Baron Alderson. The General died at his residence, 9, Berkeley-square, on the 9th ult.

GENERAL THE HON. W. H. GARDNER.

GENERAL THE HON. WILLIAM HENRY GARDNER, Colonel-Commandant of the 10th Battalion of the Royal Artillery, died on the 15th ult., at his seat, Delamere House, Bishops Teignton, Devonshire. The venerable General was the third son of Alan, first Baron Gardner, by his wife, Susannah Hyde, only daughter and heiress of Francis Gale, Esq., of Liguanea, Jamaica. He was born the 6th October, 1774, and married, the 20th February, 1803, Eliza Lydia, third daughter of Lieut.-General William Fyers, by whom he leaves four sons and three daughters: the latter are Mrs. Buckner, of Wyke House, Sussex; Mrs. James, and Mrs. Ponsonby Arthur Moore. The military services of General Gardner commenced in 1793, and he took part in the Walcheren expedition, and was present during the siege and capture of Flushing. He became a Captain in 1799, a Colonel in 1825, a Major-General in 1837, and a General the 20th June, 1854. He was appointed Colonel-Commandant of the 10th Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Artillery in April, 1846.

REAR-ADMIRAL SIR HENRY HART, K.C.H.

REAR-ADMIRAL SIR HENRY HART, one of the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital, died on the 22nd ult., at his residence at the Hospital. The gallant Admiral was in his seventy-sixth year. He entered the Royal Navy in March, 1796, as a midshipman on board the *Indefatigable*, then commanded by Captain Sir Edward Pellew; and the year after he took part, in company with the *Amazon*, in a very gallant engagement with a French 74-gun ship, *Les Droits de l'Homme*, which ended in the capture of that vessel. Throughout the rest of the war Hart was continually and indefatigably engaged, and was present at numerous hard-fought and successful engagements. In Sept., 1831, he was appointed Flag-Captain, in the *Melville*, to Sir J. Gore, then just named Commander-in-Chief in the East Indies. Captain Hart, while on that station, had the temporary command of the *Imogene*, and was specially deputed to conduct an important negotiation with the Imam of Muscat. At the successful termination of this mission he went to Bombay with a ship of 74 guns, intended as a present from the Imam to the late King William IV., who added her to the British Navy under the name of the *Imaum*. Captain Hart returned in the *Melville*, with the Earl of Clare, in 1835. Shortly after, in Jan., 1836, he was nominated a K.C.H., and was knighted in acknowledgment of his naval services. In April, 1842, he received the Captain's good-service pension; in 1845 was named a Commissioner of Greenwich Hospital; and in October, 1846, he was made a Rear-Admiral on the retired list. The gallant Admiral was a scion of the ancient family of the Harts of Lullingstone, in Kent, now represented by Sir Percyvall Hart Dyke, Bart., of Lullingstone Castle.

THE REV. DR. HARRIS.

THE REV. DR. HARRIS, the talented and worthy principal of the New College, St. John's Wood, died on the 21st ult., in the fifty-third year of his age. Dr. Harris was a native of Ugborough, in Devonshire, and was educated in the Independent College, then existing at Hoxton, but afterwards removed to Highbury, and finally to New College, of which he was Principal at the time of his death. He was first settled as minister of a small Congregational church at Epsom, where he continued for many years in comparative seclusion. He was brought to public notice as the successful competitor for a prize of a hundred guineas, offered by Dr. Conquest, for the best essay against covetousness. This production, under the title of "Mammon," gained extraordinary popularity, and drew the attention of the religious world strongly towards the author. He was an able and a very popular preacher, and in 1837 he became Professor of Theology in Cheshunt College; and when, in 1850, the various Independent colleges in and about the metropolis were consolidated into one, under the designation of New College, he was invited to preside over that institution. Besides the prize essay referred to above, Dr. Harris was the author of several other works displaying even more compass and maturity of thought than "Mammon." One of these was the "Great Commission," also the result of a literary competition, in which he bore away the first prize. The "Great Teacher" was his earliest work; and others were "The Preadamite Earth," "Man Primeval," and "Patriarchy."

DR. PARIS.

JOHN AYRTON PARIS, M.D., D.C.L., F.R.S., President of the College of Physicians, died, on the 24th ult., at his residence, 27, Doyers-street, after having practised medicine for half a century, and having during that period risen to the very highest honours of his profession. Dr. Paris was born at Cambridge on the 7th of August, 1785. He became a member of Caius College there, and graduated in medicine when very young. At twenty-two years of age he was elected Physician to the Westminster Hospital; but soon after vacated the appointment to establish himself in the town of Penzance. During his residence at Penzance Dr. Paris founded the Royal Geological Society of Cornwall, the first Geological Society in England. At Penzance, also, he invented for the miners the "tamping-bar," the instrument with which they are enabled to pursue their business amid inflammable gases without the fear of striking fire from the rock. In 1810 Dr. Paris returned to the metropolis; and here, for more than forty-five years, he was actively and extensively occupied as a leading London doctor. He was elected President of the College of Physicians in 1844; and he held that office till his death. Dr. Paris was known not only for his pre-eminence in medicine, but also for his literary ability. His "Life of Sir Humphry Davy" is a thorough classical biography. Among his other

works were his "Medical Jurisprudence," written in conjunction with Mr. Fonblanque; his treatise "On Diet," published at an early age; his "Pharmacologia;" his book on Medical Chemistry; and his "Philosophy in Sport," which attained great popularity.

F. C. W. SEYMOUR, ESQ.

FREDERICK CHARLES WILLIAM SEYMOUR, Esq., whose death occurred on the 7th ult., was the fourth son of Lord Hugh Seymour, and grandson of Francis first Marquis of Hertford; he was also brother of Admiral Sir George F. Seymour, and of the late Colonel Sir Horace Beauchamp Seymour, K.C.H. Mr. Frederick Seymour was born the 1st Feb., 1797. He married, first, in 1822, Lady Mary Gordon, third daughter of George ninth Marquis of Huntly; and by her (who died in June, 1825) he had a son, Conway, an officer in the army, and a daughter, the Hon. Mary Frederica, Maid of Honour to the Queen. Mr. Seymour married, secondly, 18th Sept., 1832, Lady Augusta Hervey, eldest daughter of Frederick present Marquis of Bristol, and had issue by her three sons and three daughters.

COUNT LEON PEROWSKI.

COUNT LEON PEROWSKI, Minister of "Apanages" in Russia, who died on the 22nd November, at St. Petersburg, and at whose funeral, on the 25th of the same month, the Emperor Alexander attended, was famous both as a soldier and a civilian. The Count entered the Russian army in 1811, and, obtaining his officer rank in 1812, took an active part in the war against Napoleon, and in 1814 was wounded. After rising to the grade of Colonel of the Staff of the Guard, in 1823 he entered the civil service, and in 1829 was named Vice-President of Domains. In 1841 he became Minister of the Interior; and in 1852, on his return from the Caucasus and the Crimea, where he went for the benefit of his health, he was, on the death of Prince Volkonsky, appointed Minister of Domains, and, at the same time, placed at the head of the Cabinet of the Emperor, which post was separated expressly for him from the Ministry of the Imperial Household. The Emperor, in 1855, further confided to him the administration of the Crown Mines and Works in the district of Altai, in Siberia. In addition to these offices, in all of which Count Perowski displayed great zeal, he was, in 1854, charged to form a regiment of riflemen of the Imperial family. This corps he raised and drilled in an exceedingly brief period; and, being chosen its Colonel, he changed for the time his grade of Privy Counsellor for that of General of Infantry. At the recent coronation of Alexander II. Count Perowski was made Aide-de-Camp-General to his Majesty as a mark of personal favour. The Count was sixty-five years of age at the period of his demise.

BARON VON HAMMER NUYSTALL.

THIS great Oriental scholar was born in 1774 at Gratz, in Styria, where his father occupied an honourable position in the public service. Von Hammer, from his earliest childhood, seems to have been swayed by some mysterious influence which drew him towards the East. In 1788 he entered the then recently-instituted Oriental Academy at Vienna, where he attracted the notice of the celebrated Jenisch, who availed himself of his services in the preparation of his edition of Meninski's Lexicon. Von Hammer about this time produced several poems, both original and translated, from the Eastern languages. In 1799 he was sent as dragoman to Constantinople, whence he was transferred to Egypt, and there employed as interpreter to the English army during General Sir Ralph Abercromby's campaign. He was subsequently Attaché to the Austrian Embassy at Constantinople, and Consul in Moldavia. In 1811 he became Interpreter to the Chancery of Vienna. In 1817 he was made a Councillor, and in 1835 a Baron. Of late years Baron von Hammer had retired from the public service, and lived on his estates in Styria. His works are numerous, the most important being the "Encyclopædic Views of Oriental Science," the "Glance at Turkish Literature," the "History of Persian Belles Lettres," the "History of the Assassins," the "History of the Ottoman Empire," the "History of Ottoman Poetry," "The Mongols in Russia," and "The Mongols in Persia"—all published between 1804 and 1843. Baron von Hammer was ex-President and Senior Master of the Viennese Academy of Science; and he is said to have received the decorations of twenty different orders, and to have been a member of almost every literary society in the world. The Baron died on the 26th November, at Vienna, and his remains were borne to the grave by the students of that Oriental academy which counted him among its earliest pupils, and which now derives additional lustre from association with his name.

MEMORIAL TO THE LATE SIR R. H. INGLIS.—The Council of King's College, having received through William Salt, Esq., a donation of £500, to be entered in the college books as "a small memorial to the late Right Hon. Sir Robert Harry Inglis, from one whose family loved him," have determined that the sum in question, and any other sums that may be contributed towards the memorial, shall be applied towards the establishment and endowment of a distinct scholarship, or scholarships, bearing the name of Sir R. H. Inglis, for the reward and promotion of merit in modern history and English literature. The subscriptions amount to a considerable sum, including that of George Monckton, Esq., of Somerford, for £500.

MONUMENT TO LIEUT. KIDD, R.N.—A monument has lately been erected in the Cathedral of Armagh, at the expense of the inhabitants of that city, to the memory of the late Lieut. Kidd, R.N. Mr. Thomas Farrell, of Dublin, is the sculptor: it is seven and a half feet in height by six in breadth, rising from the floor of the cathedral; the material is pure white Carrara marble, with the exception of the base, which is blue veined. The principal figure is about four feet in length, and is a striking likeness of the deceased. It will be in the recollection of our readers that Lieutenant Kidd, R.N., was engaged as a leader of one of the scaling-ladder parties from the Naval Brigade in the attack on the Redan, on the 18th of June, and had passed through the terrific fire from that fortress unhurt, leaving nearly half his party under its walls; when he again returned to the open, and fell as recorded in the inscription. The artist has chosen the moment when the brave sailor received his death wound. The inscription in the lower panel of the monument relates the circumstances of Lieut. Kidd's death, thus detailed in the official despatch from Capt. Sir Stephen Lushington, R.N., to Rear-Admiral Sir Edmund Lyons, G.C.B.:—"It is with extreme regret I have to report the death of Lieut. Kidd, who fell on the 18th inst. After bringing the remains of his party safely into the trenches, he again returned to the open to recover some wounded men, and in this gallant act of devotion to his duty he was shot through the body by a rifle ball, and died shortly after reaching the camp. Lieut. Kidd was an honour to the brigade, and her Majesty's service has lost one of its most promising young officers."

SIR SNOW HARRIS'S LIGHTNING CONDUCTORS.—A despatch has reached the Admiralty from Rear-Admiral Bruce, commanding the squadron in the Pacific, stating that on the evening of the 22nd October last, in lat. 18.23 N., long. 105.24 W., his flag-ship, the *Monarch*, was struck by lightning. The ship is fitted with Sir Snow Harris's system of electrical conductor. The electrical discharge fell on the spindle of the main royal mast, and passing down the conductor went clear into the sea with a tremendous crash, without any damage being sustained. Such was the excited state of the air, and so numerous and vivid were the electrical sparks all around, that the ship at first was thought to be on fire.

INTERESTING TO TRAVELLERS.—By a recent decision of the French Government, travellers going from England, and proceeding direct to Belgium or Germany by Boulogne and Calais, or vice versa, are not required to have their passport *visé* by the French Consul, but can exhibit it without that formality with their railway ticket to prove that they are only passing through the country and not intending to stop in it. A similar facility is afforded in Belgium.

MUSIC AT CARMARTHEN.—Mrs. Howell, whose services to the Carmarthen Musical Society and gratuitous assistance at various local concerts, and her powerful influence in improving the musical taste of the town, are well known, has been presented with a purse of fifty sovereigns.

THE PEMBROKEHIRE HUNT.—A superb piece of plate, consisting of an oak-tree candelabrum for six lights, and centre basket with rustic base and group of foxhounds, modelled expressly by Mr. Hamilton McCarthy, has just been "Presented to George Lort Phillips, Esq., to mark the general estimation of the liberal manner in which he hunted the Pembrokehire Hunt country for many years." The plate was designed and manufactured by John Gilliam, successor to Makepeace and Walford, Serle-street, Lincoln's-inn, and is beautifully executed.

ITALIAN SUPERSTITION.—A letter from Naples, in the *Corriere Mercantile* of Genoa, gives a curious account of the superstitions current among the lazzaroni since the death of Milano. The Royalist lazzaroni maintain that the King was saved by miracle from the thrust aimed by the assassin, the bayonet having touched a medal consecrated to the Holy Virgin, which his Majesty wore. Another section of the lazzaroni, representing, it would appear, the Liberal party, have quite another story, and contend that Milano ought to be worshipped as a saint, he having sacrificed his life for the benefit of the people; the more so since, as they relate, "five white doves were seen to fly round the gibbet at his execution," a manifest proof, they declare, of the divine favour in behalf of the assassin.

ANONYMOUS BENEFICENCE.—One evening last week a woman who had been observed standing near the Hôtel du Nord at Bethune, suddenly thrust a parcel into the hands of a gentleman who came up, and then ran away. On opening the parcel, the gentleman, to his surprise, found twenty bank notes of 1000*fr.* each, with these lines:—"A person, who wishes to remain unknown, remits to M. Caron, receiver of the bureau de bienfaisance of Bethune, a sum of 20,000 francs, under the formal and absolute condition that they shall be employed in the purchase of Three per Cent Stock for the use of the said establishment." The gentleman was not, as the female had evidently supposed, M. Caron, but M. Guillemant, his father-in-law; he of course immediately handed over the money to M. Caron.—*Paris paper.*

A SKETCH OF THE CARDS :

(A RHYME FOR A TWELFTH-NIGHT PARTY.)

The Knave of Clubs
Lives on "the Scrubs,"
And will a fighting go!
The King of Clubs
Is fond of rubs,
And with him tries a throw!

The Knave of Spades
He makes the blades,
To cut the bread and cheese;
The Queen of Hearts
She bakes the tarts
Her subjects all to please!

The Diamond Queen
Is always seen
With Maidens bright and fair!
The Heart's stout Knave,
Polite and brave,
Rules Lords and Gallants rare!

The Clubs' dark Queen,
On velvet green,
The banquet will prepare;
The Queen of Spades
She bids her maids
Cull roses for her hair!

The Spades' great King,
With Signet Ring,
Commands his serving men,
With tools in hand,
To till the land,
That corn may grow again!

The Diamond King
Does everything
In thorough regal state!
The King of Hearts
Well plays his parts,
Where Love and Ladies wait!

The Diamond Knave,
His place to save,
Protects the Royal Crown;
Which, should he lose,
Would be bad news
To Commons, Peer, and Clown!

December, 1856.

The Diamond Ace
He bears his mace
Before his Sovereign Master!
The Ace of Clubs
A Jehu dubs
Himself, and drives the faster.

The Spangled Ace
Of Spades, whose lace
Small children ever charms,
To Court is borne,
With Unicorn
And Lion for his Arms.

The Club's big Ace,
With brawny face,
The Queen's grand palace keeps,
And safely guards
The halls and yards,
Whilst England's Monarch sleeps.

The Deuce and Tray
Make ready play,
At "Loo," "Put," and "All Fours;"
The Four and Five
Keep "pegs" alive
At Cribbage with their scores.

The Six and Seven
Cards, odd and even,
To count are little known;
Whilst sober Eight
A stop must wait
The Nine at famed Pope Joan.

In dealing round,
On crimson ground,
The Ten sustains its name;
And happy he
Must surely be
Who, with it, wins the game.

Long may their powers,
In Christmas hours,
Call "Fun" and "Magic" forth;
When with his tricks
The pack he'll fix,
The "Wizard of the North!"

PLUTUS, Junior.

HONG-KONG.

(To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.)

I OBSERVE, in an article on Hong-Kong, contained in your paper of the 27th inst., the following paragraph:—"Hong-Kong costs the nation a handsome sum. In 1851-52, £113,782; in 1853-54—the last return we have seen—£72,466, or not much less, one year with another, than £100,000 annually."

It is true that formerly Hong-Kong was a considerable charge on the Imperial revenue, but at no time for an amount in any degree approximating to that mentioned in your article; but in the three years that have elapsed since the appointment of the present Governor this state of things has entirely changed. The estimates for 1855-56 included a sum of only £2000 or £3000 for the charges of Hong-Kong; and in 1856-57 not only was there not one single farthing voted for Hong-Kong, but the colony had a large surplus and unexpended revenue of its own. There is no reason to suppose that there will be any alteration in this respect in the forthcoming year (1857-58), or that Hong-Kong will again become a charge upon this country.

I think it probable that in your article you have placed to the account of Hong-Kong the amount annually voted for our diplomatic and consular staff in China; but this item of expense has nothing to do with Hong-Kong, except that the Plenipotentiary happens to be located there. Even if no such place as Hong-Kong existed, this expense would equally be incurred, and probably on a larger scale than at present.

As the article to which I refer will be extensively read, not only in this country but in China, and be calculated to produce an unfavourable impression in England with regard to Hong-Kong, and also tend to check the meritorious and successful efforts of our colonists in Hong-Kong to pay their own way, unaided by any Parliamentary grant, I feel assured that you will not be unwilling to correct the error in question, and acquaint the public that Hong-Kong is now distinguished from the rest of our so-called "Crown Colonies" by being entirely self-supporting.

London, Dec. 29, 1856. I am, Sir, your obedient servant, B.

BURSTING OF WATER-PIPES FROM FROST.

(To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.)

I HAVE just contrived and had executed in my house a plan by which the bursting of water-pipes from frost is rendered impossible. On most service pipes there may be found a stop-cock by which the communication with the street mains may be at once cut off. Your readers are aware that the water is turned on daily. Well, after my cisterns are filled I turn the stop-cock and cut off all further communication with the street mains until next day at supply hour; and having attached a half-inch lead pipe fitted with a small stop-cock of its own immediately on the house side of the stop-cock attached to the service-pipe, I thus daily run off into the area gully-hole the small quantity of water which always fills those pipes, passing on to all the cisterns in the house, which pipes being thus emptied are no longer in danger of freezing or bursting.

When we calculate that there are 360,000 houses in London, and that water-pipes may be fairly said to burst once every three years on an average in each house, we arrive at the fact that 120,000 pipes annually burst from freezing. The damage done by these accidents is sometimes very serious, entire houses being thereby sometimes deluged with water; but, omitting all such accidental damage, there imperatively remains the expense of mending the pipes which will, on an average, be about five shillings at the least—that is, from 120,000 houses, £30,000 is annually expended in mending that which my simple contrivance, if attended to, will once and for ever remedy. I may also add that the annoyance of frozen pipes is not limited to the actual bursting, but embraces the continual anxiety during frosty weather which the *paterfamilias* suffers lest his pipes should burst—to say nothing of the frequent inconvenience arising from the want of water in the closets, &c.

That plumbers should not have discovered so simple a method of cure is, perhaps, not to be wondered at; but such as it is all plumbers and householders are welcome to use the remedy, which may be applied at the cost of a few shillings.—Your obedient servant,
Great Cumberland-street. GEO. WYLD, M.D.

EXTENSION OF POSTAL PRIVILEGES.—On the 1st of January, 1857, the regulations with respect to printed papers addressed to France or Algeria, or to any of the French offices in Turkey, Syria, or Egypt, were modified as follows:—The printed papers may be in any binding, mounting, or covering, whether such binding, &c., be loose or attached. In the case of prints or maps, rollers or cases may accompany them; and markers, whether of paper or otherwise, may be sent with books or other printed papers. No packet must, however, exceed the dimensions of eighteen inches in length, width, or depth. All other regulations for the transmission of these printed papers remain in force, and the privileges above specified do not apply to other foreign countries, the correspondence of which is forwarded through France. The places in Turkey, Syria, and Egypt, at which France maintains post-offices are—Alexandria, Alexandria, Beyrout, Constantinople, Dardanelles, Gallipoli, Jaffa, Latakia, Mersina, Mytelene, Rhodes, Smyrna, and Tripoli in Syria.

At the Quarter Sessions for the city of Oxford on Monday last there was no prisoner for trial, in consequence of which the Mayor, Mr. Alderman Fowle, presented the Recorder with a pair of white kid gloves to commemorate the event.

THE writ for the election of a member for Lanarkshire has reached Glasgow, and Sir A. Alison, the Sheriff, has fixed Monday next, the 5th January, for the nomination. It is said that Mr. Baillie Cochrane will walk over the course.

CHESS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

M. E. O. H., Dublin.—Your query is not sufficiently explicit. By "intermediate square," do you mean the square directly in front of the Pawn? If so, the Pawn could certainly not advance two squares, because to do so he would have to leap over another man; and Pawns have never acquired the right to do that.

A. M. R.—Let us see some other specimens. The Problem sent is deficient in point and badly arranged.

W. SHEDDEN.—It shall be submitted to the examiners; but "first attempt," as we have often had occasion to remark, is not at all adapted for this paper.

J. Y. HUNTER, F. W. D., J. P., DELTA, and others.—Mr. Lulman's Problem, No. 671, was not quite correctly described. The White Pawn in the centre must be placed on his King's 3rd, and the Black Pawn at his King's 5th. We reserve the solution till next week.

J. E. R., of Stuttgart, will be good enough to accept our apologies for the postponement of his Problem.

A SUBSCRIBER.—The scant space apportioned to the Chess articles lately has driven us sadly in arrears; but we trust next week to give a couple of the games in the match between MM. Harwitz and De Hiville.

T. H. N., of Manchester.—It shall have a place shortly among the Chess Enigmas.

W. F. N., The Grange.—You may.

F. G., Northampton.—A very smart, agreeable paper, but which we are compelled to decline, from want of room. It would occupy three of our columns.

A BOOBY.—The present laws provide no penalty for such an irregularity.

H. E. KIDSON.—We are glad to recognise an old and valued contributor under this signature. His problem shall have due attention.

E. HEINE, D. B., H. P., W. GRIMSHAW.—Received, with thanks.

TEETA.—You mean of describing the moves is not intelligible. Get the "Chess Player's Handbook," published by Bohn and study the article "Notation" therein.

C. H. W.—The game played in a pass of the Himalayas shall be reported on next week.

BOOKWORM.—After some trouble the quotation has been discovered. It occurs in George Whetstone's "Promos and Cassandra," act II., scene 5:—
"But as at Chesses though skylark players play,
Sky-larks' sweeters may see what they ought."

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 670, by Omicron, Julius Manning, G. W., Parisian, Delta, A. Statesman, Philip, The Beadle, Digby, O. P. Q., Little Dorrit, Cesar, P. P., Junius, Semper Idem, Canial, Peter Simple, F. W., H. P. S., A. B. C., A. Sailor, N. B., Gregory, Vixen, Germanicus, B. N., W. S., R. M. T., Tom Jones, Ernest, H. L., Emigrant, Alpha, T. C. D., R. J., X. Y. Z., J. Briggs, A. Member of the St. George's, D. W. F., F. R. Crampton, Bushey, Tumkin, are correct. All others are wrong.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 668.

WHITE. BLACK.
1. Q to K 7th Kt to K 4th, or (a)
2. Q to K B 6th R takes Q
(If Black play—2. Kt to K 3rd, White mates with his Kt. If he play—2. Kt to Q 6th then P takes Kt—Mate.)

3. Kt mates
(a) 1. P to K B 6th P to K B 6th
(Black may play also—1. R takes Q, or—1. K to B 4th. To the former White must reply with—2. R to K B 6th—mating next move with R, Kt, or Bishop; and to the latter—2. B takes R—check and mate next move.)
2. R takes R (ch) P takes R
(If R to B 4th, then R to Q R 6th, discovering check and mate.)
3. Q takes K R P—Mate.

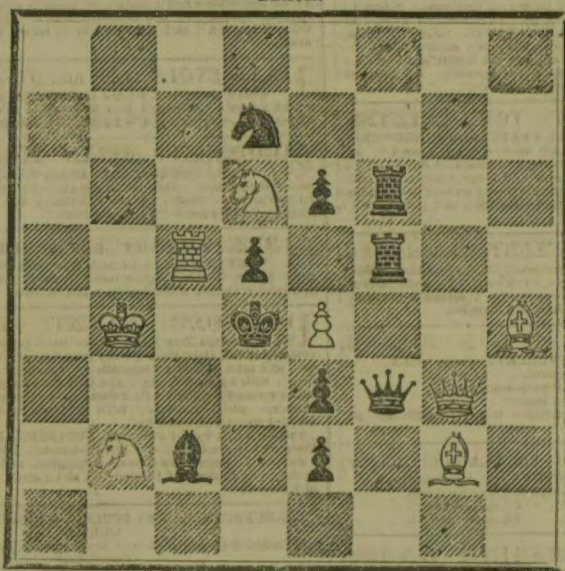
SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 669.

WHITE. BLACK. WHITE.
1. Kt to Q 2 (discovering check) K takes Kt (best) 3. B to Q R 4th, or B to K B 4, or R takes P
2. Q to Q B sq (ch) Anything According as Black plays.

PROBLEM No. 672.

By J. E. RIES, of Stuttgart.

BLACK.



White to play, and mate in five moves.

CHESS IN THE METROPOLIS.

Games in the recent Match between Mr. STAUNTON and Mr. W., from Mexico.

GAME IN WHICH MR. STAUNTON GIVES THE ROOK.

Remove Black's Q Rook from the board.

BLACK (Mr. S.) WHITE (Mr. W.) BLACK (Mr. S.) WHITE
1. P to K 4th P to K 4th 23. Kt to Q 2nd Q to K 2nd
2. K Kt to K B 3rd Q Kt to Q B 3rd 24. Kt to 4th Q takes P (ch)
3. K B to Q B 4th P to Q 3rd 25. P to K B 4th (a) R to B sq (b)
4. P to Q B 3rd Q B to K Kt 5th 26. Q to K R 4th Q to Q 4th
5. Q to her Kt 3rd Q to Q 2nd 27. Kt to K B 6th Q to K B 2nd
6. B tks K B P (ch) Q takes B 28. K tks K R P (ch) K to K sq
7. Q takes Q Kt P Q R to Q sq 29. R to K sq (ch) K to Q 2nd
8. Q takes Kt (ch) Q to Q 2nd 30. Q to Kt 4th (ch) K to Q B 3rd
9. Q to Q B 4th B takes Kt 31. R to K 6th (ch) K to Q Kt 2nd
10. P takes B Kt to K B 3rd 32. Kt to K Kt 5th Q R to Q 7th (ch)
11. P to Q 4th P to Q 4th 33. K to Kt sq Q to Q 2nd
12. Q to K 2nd Q P takes K P 34. Kt to K 4th Q R to Q 5th (ch)
13. Q P takes K P P takes K B P 35. K to Kt 2nd K to Q Kt sq
14. Q takes P Kt to K Kt 5th 36. Kt to K B 2nd Q R to Q 3rd
15. Castles B to K B 4th 37. R takes R Q takes Q (ch)
16. P to K R 3rd Kt to K R 3rd 38. P takes Q P takes R
17. B to K Kt 5th B to K 2nd 39. K to Kt 3rd K to Q 2nd
18. B takes Kt P takes B 40. P to K Kt 5th R to Q Kt sq
19. Q to K R 5th (ch) K to B sq 41. P to K B 6th R takes Q Kt P
20. Q tks K R P (ch) K to Kt sq 42. P to K 5th B to K B sq
21. K to R 2nd B to K B sq 43. P to K Kt 6th
22. R to K Kt sq (ch) B to K Kt 2nd

The game was carried on for some time, and was finally won by Black's two advanced Pawns.

(a) He dared not interpose the Rook, as White would have taken it, and then have captured the Queen.
(b) A very ingenious move, showing—as White's play very frequently does throughout this encounter—that he only requires practice with experienced players to make no undistinguished figure among even metropolitan amateurs.

GAME IN WHICH THE ROOK IS GIVEN.

(Centre Gambit.)

Remove Black's Queen's Rook from the board.

BLACK (Mr. S.) WHITE (Mr. W.) BLACK (Mr. S.) WHITE (Mr. W.)
1. P to K 4th P to K 4th 14. Kt to K R 2nd Castles
2. P to Q 4th P takes P 15. P to K B 5th B to K Kt 4th
3. K Kt to K B 3rd Q Kt to Q B 3rd 16. P to K Kt 3rd B takes B
4. K B to Q B 4th P to Q 3rd 17. Q takes B Q to Q Kt 3rd
5. P to K R 3rd Q B to K 3rd (a) 18. Q to Q 2nd Q R to K sq
6. K B to Q Kt 5th Q B to Q 2nd 19. Kt to Q B 3rd P to Q B 4th
7. K B to Q 3rd Q Kt to K 4th 20. P takes Kt P takes P
8. K takes Kt Kt takes B (ch) 21. Kt to Q 5th Q to her sq
9. P takes Kt Kt to K 2nd 22. P to K B 6th (c) Q R to K 4th
10. P to K B 4th P to Q B 3rd 23. K Kt to Kt 4th B takes Kt (d)
11. Castles Kt to K Kt 3rd 24. P takes B Q to Q 2nd
12. Kt to K B 3rd K B to K 2nd 25. R to K B 5th R takes R
13. P to Q 4th (b) Kt to K B 5th 26. K Kt P takes R
And White cannot save the game.

(a) Mr. W., in receiving these large odds, is fully alive, it will be observed, to the importance of exchanging pieces, and rarely lets slip an opportunity of weakening his opponent in this manner whenever he can do so without disadvantage.
(b) To prevent the adverse Kt being played to K 4th when K B P is advanced.
(c) The winning move, play as White may.
(d) Q R to K R 4th would have been better, perhaps; but in any case the attack is too overful to be long defended.

CHESS ENIGMA.

No. 1018.—By A. LULMAN, of Melbourne, Australia.

White: K at K Kt 6th, R at K Kt 7th, B at K R 7th, P's at K 4th and Q R 6th.
Black: K at Q R sq, B at K 4th, P's at K 3rd and Q R 2nd.
White playing first mates in four moves.

EPITOME OF NEWS—FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

The King of Portugal and his suite made a journey the other day along the line of the Santarem Railway, and, alighting at Alhandra, passed on to the estate of Sobralinho.

Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton, who was recently elected to the office of Lord Rector of Glasgow University, will be installed on Thursday, Jan. 15.

Count de Morny, whose return to Paris has been announced for the end of the present month, will not (says the *Constitutionnel*) arrive until towards the end of January.

Letters from Vienna announce the death of the Archduchess of Austria, Mary Elizabeth Frances, widow of the late Archduke Renier, formerly Viceroy of the Lombardo-Venetian kingdom. She was sister of the late Charles Albert, King of Sardinia, and great-aunt of the present Emperor of Austria.

On the 3rd of February next a new writ will be issued for the election of a member for the borough of Newport, Isle of Wight, to serve in the place of Mr. William Biggs, who is prepared to resign his seat.

General Santa Anna of Mexico has sent agents to Madrid to propose to re-establish monarchy in Mexico, with a Spanish Prince as Sovereign, provided the Spanish Government will grant him certain assistance.

Mr. John Frost, the Chartist, has announced his intention of becoming a candidate for the representation of Merthyr at next election.

The *Dundee Advertiser* quotes a rumour that the Rev. Mr. Caird is to receive £1000 a year as minister of the new church at the west end of Glasgow, and that he will only be expected to preach once each Sabbath.

Field Marshal Keller has arrived in Naples to present the congratulations of the Emperor of Austria to his Majesty on his preservation.

The Royal Academy of Sciences at Turin, at its last meeting, elected Mr. William Fairbairn, F.R.S., the President of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Manchester, a corresponding member of the Academy.

A letter from Munich announces that the King of Bavaria intends making an excursion to Naples and Madrid in the spring.

At a meeting of the Town Council of Southampton, on the 26th ult., Mr. Alderman White was elected Mayor in the room of Mr. Richard Andrews, who resigned the office of chief magistrate on becoming candidate for the representation of the borough.

The French Emperor has ordered the restoration of the house of the Bonaparte family at Ajaccio; and has promised M. Montois, the Prefect of Corsica, to inscribe 200,000 francs on the civil list of 1857, for the purpose of building a mausoleum to receive the ashes of the mother of Napoleon I., and of Cardinal Fesch.

Mr. Scott Russell, C.E., is at Lisbon on professional business, and has examined several sites on the banks of the Tagus, with a view of establishing a mercantile arsenal.

The Prince de Carignan arrived at Nice on the morning of the 23rd ult. from Turin, and was received by all the civil and military authorities.

Mr. David Lynch, Q.C., of the Leinster Circuit, has been appointed Assistant Barrister for the county of Louth, in the room of Mr. John Perrin (son of Judge Perrin), who retires in consequence of continued indisposition.

Christ Church, the Protestant Episcopal Cathedral, in Montreal, has been destroyed by fire. The damage is estimated at 120,000 dollars—the insurance is 68,000 dollars.

The King and the Royal family of Belgium, with the Archduke Maximilian of Austria, attended a performance "by order" at the Theatre Royal, at Brussels, on Saturday evening. On entering and leaving the theatre the august party were greeted with acclamations.

The Duke de Ossuna, the Spanish Minister, was formally received by the Emperor Alexander at the Palace of Czarskoé Selo, on the 14th ult., and was afterwards presented to the Empress. In the evening the Duke dined at the Palace, and attended a theatrical performance.

His Excellency Count Kisseleff had the honour of being received by the French Emperor on Sunday last, and of presenting a letter, in which the Emperor Alexander informed him of the birth of Prince Nicholas, the son of the Grand Duke Nicholas and the Grand Duchess Alexandra Petrovna.

A letter from Genoa of the 20th ult. states that the Pope had visited Maria Christina a few days previously. The ex-Queen met the Pope at the foot of the staircase, and conducted him to the throne-room, where he remained an hour, and admitted the entire household to his presence.

Lord and Lady Londonderry gave a ball the other evening, in the Market-house, Newtownards, to their tenantry. About 450 were present, and dancing was kept up till an advanced hour.

The Archbishops of Valencia and Grenada have sent addresses to the Queen of Spain, thanking her for what she has done for the Church, and exhorting her Majesty to continue "the glorious enterprise of Catholic emancipation in Spain."

On Sunday last a great many foreigners of distinction had the honour of being presented to the Emperor and Empress by the Ambassadors of England and Russia, and by the Ministers of Belgium, Portugal, Sardinia, the United States of America, of Holland, and of Denmark; and at the request of the *chargé d'affaires* of Tuscany.

The Queen has commissioned Mr. William Simpson, the artist of the Crimean War, to paint for her private gallery a picture of the reception on board the *Resolute*.

It is said that Prince Frederick William has, in the name of the King, invited the Emperor of the French to pay a visit to Berlin in the spring, and that the invitation has been accepted.

The Lord Mayor has kindly consented to grant the use of the Egyptian Hall on Monday next, the 5th of January, and to preside at a meeting for the purpose of offering a testimonial of admiration and respect to Dr. Livingston, the intrepid explorer of South Africa.

A contract has been signed between an eminent Parisian publisher and M. Arthur de la Guernière, former editor of the *Pays*, and now member of the Council of State, for the production of a work in six volumes, to be entitled "History of the Parliamentary Monarchy of France from 1815 to 1852." The sum to be paid to the writer is 13,500*fr.*, or £540 the volume.

"A Christmas gift," says the *Scotsman*, "was presented to this journal on Thursday, in the shape of, duly-stamped receipts for the 'damages' and whole expenses, amounting to nearly twelve hundred pounds, to which we were made liable by the prosecution at the instance of Mr. Duncan, M'Laren."

A letter from Nice states that the Baroness Vigier (Sophie Cruvell) is at present residing in that town for her health. She is seen almost every day in a pony-carriage, which she drives herself.

The three officers to whom Sir Benjamin Hall has intrusted the task of dealing upon the great London drainage scheme are Captain Douglas Galton (of the Royal Engineers), Mr. Simpson, and Mr. Blackwell.

M. Ziegler, historical painter, has just expired in Paris. Amongst other works, the deceased painted the altar-piece of the Madeleine.

Lady Franklin, accompanied by Miss Cracroft, Mrs. and Miss Stewart McKenzie, Sir Roderick Murchison, Mr. Majendie, Captain M'Cintock, R.N., and Mr. Cornelius Grinnell, paid a visit to the *Resolute*, in Portsmouth Harbour, on Saturday last. They were received on the quarter-deck by Captain Haristien, the officers, and crew.

Large quantities of foreign poultry are now imported, duty free. In the last eleven months the value imported (dead and alive) was £32,605.

No less than 1800 Swiss residents in aris demanded passports last week to return to Switzerland.

A public concert on a large scale was given at the Townhall, Oxford, on the 25th ult., by the workmen employed at the University Press, to an audience of upwards of 1000 persons.

It is said that the Spanish Government has resolved on forming a naval squadron in the Mediterranean, consisting of the *Isabella II.*, a ship of the line, a frigate, and a brig.

A monument to the memory of the wounded Crimean soldiers who died in Liverpool has been erected, by subscription, on an eminence at the north end of St. James's Cemetery. It consists of an obelisk or shaft of polished Scotch granite.

A caricature, or, more properly speaking, a little sketch, in the *Charivari* has for its subject the intended payment at the Bourse. Two persons meet just in front of the building, one of whom remarks, "Is it on entering that the fee is to be paid?" "Why, of course it is," replies the other, "and for the very simple reason that on coming out no one has a sou left."

A serious fire broke out on the 20th ult. at Copenhagen, in a range of storehouses, and destroyed goods and merchandise to the value, it is computed, of one million Danish dollars.

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the last half-century.
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192, Regent-street.
The Sale commences at Eleven o'clock on Monday next.

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